

Where God leads He will light us.

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.

VOL. 19, NO. 45

RUSSELL, KENTUCKY, DECEMBER 12, 1953

WHOLE NUMBER 775

Human Ego, Our Greatest Enemy

By ROY MASON
Tampa, Florida

he said with reference to a whole group of people, "Every



ELD. ROY MASON

Old human ego—SELF—played a big part with the disciples of Jesus. At the last supper a quarrel broke out among them as to who was the greatest. "I think I am the greatest . . . I think I am the big one of the bunch"—that was the attitude.

What About Old Ego Today?

It is very pronounced. We see it in the Ministry, and often preachers do not recognize that self is put first. Why do preachers become stooges of their denomination? Why do they put up with things that they know are not right? Why do they go ahead helping to support institutions that are filled with mod-

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man seeketh his own, and not the things of Jesus Christ." (Phil. 2:21).

A REPRINT OF THE EDITOR'S LETTER TO LIFE MAGAZINE IN 1947

This is a letter to the editor of LIFE, written five years ago. It is reprinted by request. It is free for the asking.

December 9, 1947

Life,
340 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago 11, Illinois

Attention: Mr. Henry R. Luce,
Editor-in-Chief

Mr. Dear Sir:

Ever since LIFE became a weekly publication, I have been both a subscriber and a reader, and have appreciated very definitely both your pictorial and verbal descriptions of current news.

However, I must differ radically with you as to the "family tree" of Catholicism and Protestantism as shown on Page 122 of the November 10, 1947, issue of LIFE.

In this, you make Baptists to

originate about the year 1609, and through your ingenious "family tree" you very skillfully show that all denominations have come from Catholic Christendom, or in other words, you make the Catholic Church to be a sort of mother church.

My dear sir, there isn't an historian, either sacred or secular, of any degree of reputation whom you might quote in justification of the purported facts of your "family tree." In fact, the entirety of it, as far as Baptists are concerned, is a gross perversion. It is true that the Catholic Church is the mother or grandmother of all Protestant churches. Yet, Baptists are not and never were, Protestants. Baptists did not originate in 1609, and neither is Catholic Christendom the oldest church.

I desire to categorically aver and unconditionally assert that Baptist churches were established in the days of the Lord Jesus during the time of His ministry in the country of Palestine. With Jesus as their Founder, and the Bible as their textbook, Baptist churches have ex-

isted since the day of Jesus' memorable utterance, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."—Matthew 16:18.

Ypeij and Dermout, eminent historians of the Dutch Reformed Church, say: "The Baptists may be considered as the only

OUR WEEKLY RADIO PROGRAMS

KFKA — 1310 On The Dial
Greeley, Colo.
Sunday, 2:00-2:30 p. m.

WIRO — 1230 On The Dial
Ironton, Ohio
Sunday, 9:00 p. m.

WHJC — 1360 On The Dial
Matewan, W. Va.
Saturday, 10:30-11:00 a. m.

WHTN — 800 On The Dial
Huntington, W. Va.
Sunday, 7:45 a. m.

WSNJ — 1240 On The Dial
Bridgeton, N. J.
Sunday, 2:45 p. m.

Christian community that has stood since the days of the apostles, and as a Christian society has preserved pure the doctrines of the Gospel THROUGH ALL AGES."

Alexander Campbell, who hated Baptists perhaps more than any man within the past century, wrote: "The sentiments of Baptists and their practice of baptism FROM THE APOSTOLIC AGE to the present, have had a continued chain of advocates and public monuments of their existence in every century can be produced."

Robert Barclay, a Quaker historian, says of Baptists: "We shall afterward show that the rise of the Anabaptists took place PRIOR to the reformation of the Church of England, and there are also reasons for believing that on the continent of Europe, small hidden Christian societies, who have held many of the opinions of the Anabaptists, have existed from the times of the apostles. In the sense of the direct transmission of Divine truth, and the true nature of spiritual religion, it seems

probable that these churches have a lineage or succession MORE ANCIENT than that of the Roman Church."

John Clark Ridpath, doubtlessly the greatest historian the world has ever produced, (a Methodist by denominational conviction), said: "I should not readily admit that there was a Baptist Church as far back as 100 A. D., although without doubt there were Baptist churches then, as ALL CHRISTIANS were then Baptists."

Mosheim, the outstanding Lutheran historian, said: "Before the rise of Luther and Calvin, there lay secreted in almost all the countries of Europe, persons who adhered tenaciously to the principles of the modern Dutch Baptists . . . the origin of Baptists is lost in the remote depths of antiquity . . . the first century was a history of the Baptists."

Zwingli, a Presbyterian co-
(Continued on page four)

SACRIFICING FOR MISSIONS

A man stood on the seashore one day. His heart was happy. He watched a ship as it pulled from shore and nosed its way back toward the Orient. Looking over his shoulders he saw another man who was weeping. His tears were not tears of sorrow, but of joy mingled with sorrow. Said the man who had contributed his million dollars, "Sir, why do you weep? I am happy. Do you see that boat? It is bearing one million dollars to the shores of the Orient to be used to preach the Gospel." Said the other man, "Sir, I have no million dollars to give to God, but my daughter is on that boat on her way to China to carry the Gospel message." The man who had given his million dollars bowed his head in shame and said, "I have given nothing." Even so, the Lord said, "this widow hath given more."

—The Baptist News, Elyria, O.

The First Baptist Pulpit

"The Miracle Of The Crooked Woman"

"And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and

said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day. The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering? And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day? And when he had said these things, all his adversaries were

ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him."—Luke 13:10-17.

I would remind you at the very outset that I believe in miracles. I believe in this miracle. I think it took place exactly as Jesus Christ said that it did. I believe that this woman was bent double, as the Word of God says, and that Jesus Christ miraculously and supernaturally healed this woman so that she who was all crooked

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AN ANNOUNCEMENT

A FULL REPORT OF OUR THANKSGIVING SERVICE AND THE ENLARGEMENT OF OUR PAPER WILL BE GIVEN NEXT WEEK

With our Thanksgiving Missionary Conference on, and the dismantling, moving and erection of our new press taking place, along with our regular routine of duties, your editor has just been too busy to do the writing he has wished to do for the past two weeks.

Suffice it to say that the press is just about ready for operation, for which we are most grateful. By the time this issue of the paper reaches you, we expect to have it completely installed.

We expect next week to print your editor's Thanksgiving sermon, a complete report of our great Thanksgiving conference, an appraisal of Bro. Raymond Waugh and his new book, entitled, "The Mythical Book of the Southern Baptist Seminary," and a full story of our new press with pictures of the same. Watch for this next issue as it will be brimful of good things for spiritually-minded readers.

May we ask a place in your prayer life, especially just now. Also, let me remind you of the tremendous cost of moving this press—over \$2500. At this season, due to the pagan holiday festivities, our offerings usually fall very low. A gift from each of our readers would surely help just now, and would be most deeply appreciated.

GLORIOUS SUFFICIENCY

A poor woman who had had a hard struggle to make ends meet, and knew what it meant to be stinted for food, was taken from the East End of London to the seaside. She was delighted with the scene. As she looked over the deep, and watched the inrolling waves, tears filled her eyes and she exclaimed, "Thank God for a sight of something of which there is enough!" It is so when the soul gets its first vision of the infinite fullness of God's grace in Jesus Christ. His grace is quite enough for the soul's every need. Seeing Him, we say: "Thou, O Christ, art all I want, more than all in thee I find."

—The Community Bulletin

Joining the Red Cross is not equivalent to bearing His cross.

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

JOHN R. GILPIN — EDITOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE
(Domestic and Foreign)

One Year in Advance 50c

Send Remittance to Russell, Ky.
Editorial Department, RUSSELL KENTUCKY, where communications should be sent for publication.

Entered as second-class matter May 31, 1941, in the post office at Russell, Ky., under the act of March 3, 1879.

Paid circulation in every state and many foreign countries.

Subscriptions are stopped at expiration unless renewed or special arrangements are made for their continuation.

"The Crooked Woman"

(Continued from page one)
and bent double, was raised to a straightened position. I believe it exactly as it is recorded in God's Word.

This leads me to say that my position relative to this miracle is exactly the same, relative to every miracle in all the Word of God. I read in the Bible how that Jesus met a man who had a withered hand, and miraculously He restored that hand and arm so that it was made whole. I believe every word as it is written.

I read in the Bible how that one day when the children of Israel were crossing the Jordan River, even though it was at the flood season and though the river stood at flood stage, that God miraculously stopped the waters so that the flood waters above the children of Israel piled up, one on top of the other, while the waters below flowed on and allowed a dry place across the Jordan River for the Jews to pass into Canaan. It is a miracle, and I believe it exactly as it is written.

I read in the Old Testament of three who had died and had been buried, whom God through the prophet raised back to life. In the ministry of my Lord Jesus Christ I read of three who had been dead, who were raised to life. Then in the book of the Acts I read of two men who had died and were raised back to life. In other words, in the Old and New Testaments we have the story of eight individuals who had lived, who had died and the most of whom were buried, and yet the Word of God tells us that they were resurrected and brought back to life and health. Beloved, I believe it. I believe all the miracles of the Word of God.

I read in the New Testament how that one day Jesus took five loaves and two fishes and from that humble stock that He miraculously and supernaturally fed five thousand men, not counting women and children, and of the fragments that remained, twelve baskets full were gathered up. Beloved, it is a miracle, and I believe it just as it is written in God's Word.

The Lord Jesus Christ met an individual who was blind from birth and He gave him new eyes. He met a man who was halt and had never walked for thirty-eight years but had lain at the pool of Bethesda hoping that some day he might be healed. When Jesus came by, with an eye of a practiced physician, He looked at this individual, spoke to him and raised him up. The man walked home. Thus it is with all the miraculous and all the supernatural of the Bible. I believe it just as it is written and just as it is recorded in the Word of God.

God pity the preacher today who doesn't believe the miraculous and the supernatural of the Bible. God pity the congregation that is cursed with a preacher who doesn't believe it. I say to you, beloved, I believe in the miracles. I believe in the supernatural. I don't put a question mark about any of them, but rather believe, beloved, that Jonah was actually swallowed by the fish, and that he actually stayed alive in the belly of that fish for three days and three nights, and that he actually came out of that fish and went into the city of Nineveh and actually preached to those heathen Ninevites so that the whole town was saved. When I get to Glory, I expect to see that old heathen king of Nineveh and every individual who lived in the city of Nineveh in that day. I expect to meet them yonder in Glory. I believe in the miracles of the Word of God.

Now, beloved, here is plainly, in the story which I have read, a miracle. If you put a question mark about any portion of the Word of God, you might as well put a question mark about this one; and if you put a question mark about it, you might as well rule it out of the Bible and pay no attention to it. But if you will come to it reverently, as I approach it this morning, you will find in this passage of Scripture a marvelous illustration of salvation by grace.

I

NOTICE THIS WOMAN'S CONDITION.

The Word of God says that she was "bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself." That is why I referred to her a while ago as a crooked woman. She was in a crooked position. If you will take a hair pin and look at that hair pin as it is bent double, you have exactly and precisely the description which is given concerning this woman. In the Greek, the words that are translated "bowed together" are "bent double." Now I don't know whether that means that she was completely bent over so that her head was practically touching her feet or not, although I saw a woman in a home for incurables in Richmond, Virginia, in that very pitiable condition, so that when she walked, her head practically scraped along the floor. I don't know whether this woman was in that bad condition or not, but I do know the meaning of that expression "bowed together." She was bent double like a hair pin.

In other words, beloved, if you looked at this woman, you would say that she was earthbound. Isn't that God's description of every sinner today?

"Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions."—Eccl. 7:29.

Originally, man was made upright by God. One day there came into the Garden of Eden a tempter, personified in the serpent and speaking through the serpent so that Eve was beguiled and she in turn gave of the fruit which was forbidden to them, to Adam, so that the two of them sinned and the result was that Adam and Eve, from that day, no longer stood upright. They sought out many inventions. From the day that Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden down to this hour, every descendant of Adam has been exactly like this woman. While man was originally made upright, today man, having sought out many inventions, is earthbound. He is crooked just like this Scripture speaks of this woman.

It is rather interesting, be-

loved, that she had a "spirit of infirmity" for eighteen years. Now that word "infirmity" is a very interesting word. It is the same Greek word from which we get the modern term "neuresthenia," which simply means that there is a lost connection between the brain and the body.

I suppose this morning that you recognize the fact that the brain or the mind is the managing director, while the body is the servant. If the brain says "Go yonder," the body goes. If the brain says "Turn to the right" or "Turn to the left," the body does what the brain says. But, beloved, when an individual has neuresthenia, he will say, as in the case of this woman, "Stand upright" and the body answers back to the brain, "Sorry, but I can't do it." It says that this woman had a spirit of infirmity, and I say that this word gives rise to the word neuresthenia, which simply means a lost connection between the brain and body.

Brother, sister, that's what's wrong with sinners today. That is what is wrong with this country today. Many a man will say to his body, "Don't do that," but the body goes right on and does it. Many an individual will say, "I know I shouldn't do it." In his mind he realizes the wrong, but he goes right on and does it. What was wrong? The same thing that is wrong with this woman. She had a spirit of infirmity. There was a lost connection between her body and her brain.

Beloved, every man and woman who has never come to Jesus Christ and who has never been saved, stands in the same position in the sight of God. You have no control over your fleshly nature. You might tell your flesh what to do, but your flesh does as it pleases. You have a spiritual infirmity—a lost connection between the brain and body.

You know the language of youth is: "I can stop whenever I like." Isn't that the language of youth? Isn't that the language of every young fellow here this morning—"I can stop it, whenever I want to." Well, beloved, he can't. The older he gets, the harder it is for him to quit and the more of a servant he becomes thereby unto that habit.

Brother, sister, look at this woman — she with her spirit of infirmity to the extent that she was bent double, with no control over her body. She couldn't say to that body, "Straighten up," for if she said it, the body would answer back, "I can't do." Then go home this morning, sinner friend, and look into the mirror and see the spiritual counterpart of this woman. You will see the man or woman who this morning can't control himself or herself. Why? Because of the spirit of infirmity — sin that is within you.

It is rather interesting to me to notice that this woman's condition was of a lengthy nature. The Word of God says that she had been thus for eighteen years. For eighteen years she had been bent double in a crooked condition. Brother, sister, you have been long in that condition. Listen:

"The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies."—Psa. 58:3.

"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."—Psa. 51:5.

How old are you this morning? I'll tell you this: you can go back nine months before your birth to reckon with the fact of sin. From the hour of conception there was a sinful

nature within you. This woman had been in this condition a long time. Beloved, you have had this spirit of infirmity. You have had a sinful nature. You have been bent double with sin just as long as you have been in this world, and even from the time of your conception in your mother's womb.

II

NOTICE WHAT THE LORD JESUS CHRIST DID ABOUT THIS WOMAN'S CONDITION.

Here is one passage of Scripture that an Arminian had better stay away from. Here is one passage that an Arminian had better steer shy of. A man who doesn't believe in the omnipotence and the omnipresence and the omniscience of God had better stay away from this passage of Scripture. Look what Jesus did.

First of all, Jesus saw her, for we read:

"And when Jesus saw her . . ."
—Luke 13:12.

Listen to me, beloved, she wasn't looking for Jesus, but Jesus was looking for her. He saw her.

Sinner friend, I don't know whether you are looking for Jesus or not, but if you are one of God's elect, Jesus Christ is looking for you. He saw this woman.

I would remind you that the Lord Jesus Christ is seeing you right now. He saw you when you got out of bed this morning. He saw you through the hours of the night. He has seen you every hour of the day and night from the day you came into this life. Beloved, you have always been under the constant supervision and eyesight of Almighty God.

"Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep."
—Psa. 121:4.

"Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me."—Psa. 139:7-10.

Brother, sister, I would remind you this morning, He is looking at you today.

Long years ago, Hagar, the Egyptian servant girl of Abraham and Sarah, sat down by the well despairing. There by that well a revelation was made unto her that God was with her and that God was noticing and observing her. She spoke, saying:

"Thou God seest me."—Gen. 16:13.

Brother, sister, I wish I could burn it into your heart that the same God who was seeing Hagar is seeing you this morning. He knows that you are here in God's house and He will know where you are tonight. He will know where you are tomorrow night and the nights of this week. He sees you. He saw this woman.

Then, beloved, He not only saw her, but He called her to Him. Who did the calling? Did the woman call on the Lord Jesus? No, beloved, not in any wise at all, but rather Jesus saw her and Jesus called her.

Who does the calling today? Not the preacher. It is not my business to call you to salvation. It is my business to be a messenger of the Lord Jesus Christ and preach salvation unto you. It is not my business to call you, and it is not the business of some zealous church worker to go down the aisles and drag you up to the front to make a profession of faith. It is not your business to call upon the Lord,

Whenever someone tells you that God won't save you until you get down to an altar and pray and beg God for salvation, that individual, regardless of who he is, is lying on the Lord. God never calls men thus. This woman didn't call Jesus, but it was Jesus who called her. I would remind you that as He took the initiative in this case, He takes the initiative in the salvation of every individual. He saw her, cast her. He called her, and He sought her. He took the initiative.

I grant you, beloved, it is my business to preach the Word of God, and I try to do so every time that I stand here before you. To the best of my ability I am going to witness for my Lord and preach His Word in any way and anywhere that I have the opportunity, but, beloved, when it comes to the individual being saved, as the Lord Jesus Christ called this woman, so He has to call you. I would like to burn it into your soul this morning that the Son of God was the one who saw her, who called her, and who took the initiative Himself. He doesn't do the same for you, it will be "curtains" for you in Hell.

Beloved, He not only called her, but He healed her. She had gone to the synagogue many times, I am sure. The Word of God says that this took place in the synagogue, and I rather imagine that she had gone many many times to the synagogue, but she hadn't gotten any relief in the synagogue.

Beloved, you can join a church and you won't get any healing for your soul thereby. As I have often said, the church is the home of the saved, and is not the Saviour. Every saved person ought to join the church that Jesus built. Every saved person in Russell ought to be a member of the First Baptist Church of Russell. My brother, being a member isn't going to save anybody. The church is the home of the saved and is not the Saviour.

This woman had gone to the synagogue but had gotten no relief, but the Word of God says that when the Son of God saw her, and called her, and sought her and took the initiative, that He healed her and healed her immediately. There wasn't any period of convalescing. There wasn't any period of recuperation. There wasn't any period of resting and getting well. She was just as well when Jesus laid His hand upon her as she was after He had laid His hand upon her. There was a complete, instantaneous healing. That is the way that Jesus Christ saves you. He doesn't save you by degrees.

Some people have in mind that salvation is a gradual process—that you make a profession of faith and that starts it, and the church baptizes you and you take the Lord's Supper and you live a good life and you keep doing good deeds, and then just before you die you say, "Lord, forgive me for my sins," and then you die and you are saved. Beloved, it is not so. Jesus didn't heal this woman in that manner. The healing was instantaneous.

Beloved, the moment you see the truth that Jesus Christ died on the Cross of Calvary to pay for your sins, that moment you are saved and you become a child of God. You are going to grow a lot afterward. A healthy child is going to do a lot of growing when he is born into your home. He is going to do a lot of grunting and crying. He is going to do a lot of things that he ought not to do, and he is going to do some things that he ought to do. A growing, healthy Christian is going to have the same spiritual coun-

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"The Crooked Woman"

(Continued from page two)

you that until you and pray tion, that f who he part in his experience. What ord. God want you to see is this, that his wom- as this woman was healed in- it was antaneously, so Jesus Christ I would- ayes you in exactly the same took the way.

He takes Look at that man of Gadara vation of whom we read that Jesus saw her- cast the devils out and the swine e sought- were infested by the devils and ive. they ran down the slope into the it is my sea and were drowned. How long ne Word- did it take that man to be heal- so every? Mark 5 tells us the story. e before- immediately and instantaneously y ability- this individual was healed. for my Read the story of Simon Word in- Peter's mother-in-law as record- that led in the first chapter of the but, be- Gospel of Mark, who was sick o the in- and Jesus Christ came into that as the- home and healed that woman. led this- immediately, beloved, the Word call you- of God tells us that she got up into your- and cooked dinner for the the Son- preacher. It was an instan- who saw- neous healing.

and who Read of that woman who for self. It- twelve years had an issue of for you- blood, who came and touched for you- the hem of Jesus' garment and immediately the flow of blood within her was staunch.

y called She had I tell you, my brother, my e many- sister, the very moment you see Word of- this truth that Jesus Christ on place in- the Cross of Calvary has paid ther im- for all of your sins—past sins, e many- present sins, and future sins— nago- at all of your sins were atoned y re- in the death of Jesus Christ the moment you see that truth,

a church- hank God, you are saved. healing- "And he laid his hands on s I have- her: and immediately she was is the- made straight, and GLORIFIED d is not- God."—Luke 13:13.

Beloved, God doesn't save d person- people apart from His Word. ch that- Nobody is saved because of some l person- emotional experience that the member- preacher tells. Nobody is saved ch of- because the preacher tells some being a- emotional deathbed story that ave any- tirs the audience to tears and home of- causes the congregation to weep. Saviour- Nobody is saved because of any to the- emotional strain whatsoever. Be- God says- loved, they are saved because God soul- the Word is faithfully preached ve, that- to them and they hear about led her- us Christ in the Word of God.

We read: "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."—Rom. 10:17.

There will never be a man She was-aved who has never heard the Word of God. There will never as after- be a man in Glory who doesn't on her- hear the Word of God. Listen again:

"Being BORN AGAIN, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, BY THE WORD OF GOD, which liveth and abideth for ever."—I Pet. 1:23.

That is why we believe in mis- and the- sionaries. That is why we be- and you- lieve in preaching the Word of God. I tell you, beloved, nobody u keep- will ever be saved apart from en just- the hearing of the Word of God. "Lord, This woman heard and received e, and- the message from the Lord s saved- Jesus Christ. She was healed, s didn't- and healed immediately. manner.

Oh, this morning, sinner- friend, let me point you to Him- on Calvary's Cross and tell you that Christ died for your sins. Let me point you to Him and, like John the Baptist, say, "Be- hold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!" Let me point you to Him as He hangs there and say with the apostle Peter, "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God." Oh, let me point you to Him and give you God's Word when it says that "For he hath made him to be sin for us who knew no sin." God treated Him just exactly like He was the worst

sinner in all the world, that we might be saved.

III

NOTICE THAT THIS WOMAN GLORIFIED GOD.

Notice that when this woman was made straight that she glorified God. Beloved, some people try to tell me that they are saved and yet they stay out of the church and refuse to follow the Lord in baptism and never make a profession of faith. If a man is saved, he is going to glorify God. I just don't believe for one moment's time that a saved person is going to hear the Word of God and understand that the church is the home of the redeemed and then live on the outside of the church and never follow the Lord Jesus in baptism. Beloved, if you are saved, you will glorify God. Every saved person has within him that new nature. He has within him that Spirit of God, even God Himself — the very nature of God within him. My brother, in that condition he is bound to glorify God.

Let me ask you a simple question this morning. Has the Lord made you straight? I think those of you who have been coming to this church through the years know that it is not my business to entertain. I think you know that my specialty is not that of entertaining. I want to probe deeper. I don't want to entertain you, but I want to find out one thing this morning — have you been made straight? Here was a woman who was crooked and the Lord straightened her out. I have a feeling today that if God saves a man, the same God who straightened this crooked woman will straighten you out.

I don't think a church has any business "fooling around" with the carnal things of this world. I don't think that a church has any business entertaining and catering to people's flesh. Every once in a while somebody will say, "Brother Gilpin, how do you hold your people if you don't have parties and entertainments and socials?" Beloved, it is not my business to hold anybody. It is my business to preach God's Word to you, and if God doesn't hold you, beloved, all the social appeal in this world will never affect you one particle.

This last week I had two appeals made to me by way of the flesh, both of them relative to the same thing. There has been made a movie, entitled, "Martin Luther," which is going to be shown at one of the Huntington theaters. I received a letter this last week from the Huntington Ministerial Association asking me to come to that movie, to recommend it to the membership of my church, and to bring as many people from my church as I could to see that movie. Now, beloved, that didn't come from a worldly, carnal organization. That came from the Huntington Ministerial Association and was signed by the president thereof.

Then the next day I got a letter from the theater itself. They made four or five suggestions—that I come, that I make up a theater party, that I announce it to my church, that I put it in my bulletin and that I publicize it in every way to get people to see this movie, "Martin Luther."

Beloved, it isn't my position to entertain you and your flesh. My business is not that of attempting to cater to your flesh. My business is to get you straight, and the only way that that can be done is by the power of Jesus Christ.

Oh, hear me this morning, my

WORLD'S GREATEST WELCOME SIGN



brother, my sister, I plead with you out of the depths of my soul. I want to see you straight. This woman had been crooked. She was bent double but she was straightened by the power of God when Jesus spoke the word. The only way that your life will be made straight is by the power of God in Jesus Christ. May God bless you!

An Earnest Appeal In Israel's Behalf By A Loyal Jew

By JACOB GARTENHAUS

In the providence of God, after much earnest prayer, THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF JEWISH MISSIONS, INC., was organized as an answer to the heartcry of friendless, hopeless and helpless Israel in many parts of the world. It required no little faith to launch out into a world-wide ministry, but already in a thousand ways the Lord has stamped His seal of approval on it, giving us one victory after another.

1. The first Macedonian call came from the land "south of the border" — Mexico with its 100,000 Jews—a field rich and ripe unto harvest, and the Lord has showered His blessings upon the work there. Large shipments of New Testaments, gospels and tracts in several languages have been widely distributed, being literally grabbed from the missionary's hands, and many have returned begging for extra copies for their friends.

2. In the same manner I answered a call in behalf of the

scattered and suffering of my people in many parts of Europe, even behind the "Iron Curtain"—a door shut to many. It is nothing short of the miraculous how those heroes of the cross can still carry on such a witness there. Our work there is headed by a most capable, scholarly and consecrated Hebrew Christian. One letter which escaped the censor's pen, tells of 2000 Jewish Christian believers in the city of Budapest alone. When the full story is known it will read like chapters in the book of Acts. Were it not for the assistance from us these faithful witnesses would long ago have starved to death and the fires which they kindled would have been extinguished. God forbid that we should turn a deaf ear to such a challenge.

3. Most compelling of all, from the strategic point of view, is the call from the land of Israel where things of tremendous importance are now taking place. Prophecies of centuries are being fulfilled. From the four corners of the earth the "dry bones" of Israel are being gathered to the land of their fathers by wings of the air, ships of the sea and highways of the world. But what is not so generally known is that simultaneous with this national awakening there is a spiritual awakening. Truly not since the Gospel was first proclaimed in Jerusalem when 3000 Jewish souls were saved on the Day of Pentecost alone, has the world witnessed such a movement Christ-ward. Does it not strike a chord of joy in your heart to learn that according to the official Israeli government, approximately 3000 Jews have acknowledged the Messiahship of Jesus in that land? And from my own observation I would venture to say that there are ac-

tually several times that number. How account for this unprecedented movement Christ-ward? There are two contributing factors: 1. The influence of Rabbi Daniel Zion, former Chief Rabbi of Bulgaria, now residing in Israel, whose remarkable conversion has rocked the Jewish world as nothing else since the conversion of Saul of Tarsus on the Damascus Road. 2. The widespread distribution of the Scriptures. A whole volume could be written on this.

It has been our privilege to underwrite the support of Rabbi Zion and others in their faithful witness to their people. Many have written and talked about this remarkable man but few have done anything. When I went to Israel and met him, I was determined to do everything in my power to help forward this apostolic movement under his leadership. The Lord has blessed our ministry, and even greater things are to come. We quote from a recent letter received from Rabbi Zion:

"Your dear letter filled our heart with great happiness. Indeed, we feel that in you we have a brother and a faithful friend who is concerned about us. It is a miracle that a few minutes talk sufficed to tie us by an extraordinary bond of friendship. This is not a human phenomenon but the act of God who had sent you to us, and you were the purest tool in His hands to help us as He found you the best emissary to fulfill His will."

Here are several most urgent (Continued on page four)

Human Ego

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ernism and infidelity? The answer is simple. They know that if they don't cry loyalty to the denomination and to all that is fostered by it, they will be branded as disloyal and will be hindered from rising in the ministry. They won't get the prestige of places on "boards" and "committees," etc. Also they will be hindered from obtaining good pastorates. The interest of self—place—power—honor—prestige—these are at stake, and rather than risk the interests of self, the Lord's interests are betrayed. Denominations have gone infidel because of enough of that sort of thing. Baptists are becoming a servile people, dominated by the denomination, because of that very thing.

Ego The Big Thing In Churches

Many church members don't realize how big a place their selfish old ego plays. Everything is okey dokey until something comes up in which they are led to feel slighted, then they suddenly go sour and they are ready to cause a church fuss or else they will pull out and move their membership. Over what? Hurt ego. "My feelings have been hurt!" So what? We have seen people go and join a church that practiced things they didn't believe—that was run unscripturally. We have seen people leave a church in which they believed. Why? Just because their feelings had been wounded about something or other. In other words, they subordinated the truth and the right for the sake of a ruffled and bruised ego.

We have seen church members go along for several years backing the preaching that hit other people and saying "Amen." Then one day the preacher happened to step on their pet sin or failing, and oh boy—! They couldn't take it. "The very idea of talking about something that I am guilty of!" "Why that singles ME out for rebuke!"

We have seen people serve in office, then suddenly they up and resigned. It had come to them that somebody had criticized them about something or other and they couldn't bear the thought. Of course Jesus was crucified and many of the followers of Christ have been martyred, but oh horror of horrors, how awful that somebody should criticize ME! "Let Jesus bear the cross alone—a pin prick of criticism has nearly killed me!"

The egotists who in reality serve self under the guise of Christians are disgusting. All of us are disgusting when we wilt down before anything that hurts our human pride. It shows that SELF is the big thing—not Christ and His cause and the souls of men and women. Ego—self—human pride—feelings are back behind most church troubles. What is needed is a backyard crucifixion of SELF, such that we can take some criticisms, reproaches, and even kicks and cuffs for the sake of the Lord whom we love.

Letter To Life

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laborer with John Calvin, said: "The institution of the Anabaptists is no novelty, but for 1300 years has caused great trouble in the church."

Even Cardinal Hosius (Ca-

tholic), president of the Council of Trent, December 13, 1545 to December 4, 1563, said: "Were it not for the fact that the Baptists have been grievously tormented and cut off with the knife during the PAST 1200 YEARS, they would swarm greater than all the reformers... If the truth of religion were to be judged by the readiness and boldness of which a man or any sect shows in suffering, then the opinions and persuasions of no sect can be truer and surer than those of the Anabaptists, since there have been none for the 1200 YEARS PAST that have been more generally punished or that have been more cheerfully and steadfastly undergone, and have offered themselves to the most cruel sort of punishment than these people."

"Crossing the Centuries," edited by William C. King, having as associate counselors, editors, collaborators and contributors such as: Cardinal Gibbons, Roman Catholic; Bishop John H. Vincent, Methodist; President Theodore Roosevelt; President Woodrow Wilson; W. H. P. Founce (President of Brown University); Albert Bushnell Hart, Ph.D., L.L.D., Litt.D., head of the History Department of Harvard University; George B. Adams, M. A., Ph.D., Litt.D., of Yale, and many more such famous men, says: "Of the Baptists it may be said that they are not reformers. These people, comprising bodies of Christian believers known under various names in different countries, are entirely distinct and independent of the Roman and Greek churches, and have an UNBROKEN CONTINUITY OF EXISTENCE FROM APOSTOLIC DAYS DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES. Throughout this long period, they were bitterly persecuted for heresy, driven from country to country, disfranchised, deprived of their property, imprisoned, tortured and slain by the thousands; yet they swerved not from their New Testament faith, doctrine and adherence."

My dear sir, while I have quoted from several of the world's greatest historians, I could quote from dozens of others if space permitted. None of these quoted were Baptists, yet all of them agree that Baptists have existed since the days of the apostles, and that the path traveled by Baptists through the ages has been one of martyrdom and suffering. Surely Baptists can say with the poet:

"Through many dangers, toils and snares
We have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought us safe thus far,
And grace will lead us home."

Please do not misunderstand me, sir, I do not mean to say that none but Baptists are saved. Really many so-called Baptists are unsaved. Church membership will save no one. Instead, all who have trusted Jesus Christ as Saviour and have been washed in His blood (Revelation 1:5) are sure of Heaven. This is so, regardless of church membership and baptism. In fact, if he has neither church membership nor baptism, yet in his heart has received Christ as his Saviour, that one will go to Heaven when he dies, for he has nothing to go to Hell for, since Christ has already suffered his Hell on Calvary.

Though we thus believe as to salvation, we also insist that the church that Jesus built was a Baptist Church.

With every good wish to you in the New Year, and praying that God shall open your eyes to the truth of church history, I am,

Israel--Only Indestructible Nation That Ever Existed

Today I want to speak from the theme, "Israel, the Only Indestructible Nation." The one nation that has been despised and persecuted more than all other nations put together is Israel. Israel has been hated and warred against, not during just one generation or even one century, but they have been the target of Gentile kings and nations all through the centuries since their beginning. What a paradox! The only nation that other nations have tried to annihilate all through the centuries is the only indestructible nation on the face of the earth.

The tragedy of unprecedented dimensions in Europe during the terrible war years made all past atrocities seem like child's play. We here in America just cannot appreciate the appalling of the gigantic catastrophe which overtook European Jewry.

Even during the Spanish Inquisition when the Jews were expelled from Spain they were at least offered an asylum in Africa. However, the Jews of Europe, deprived of proper means of sustenance, treated as off-scourings of the earth, stripped practically of every privilege due to every human being in a country where they were both born and raised, and a country that they had learned to love, went through unmitigated sufferings on a scale so vast that it is impossible to parallel in any previous period of the world's history.

Time after time has Israel been on the very brink of destruction and annihilation: first, by the Pharaohs, way back in B.C. 1571 to 1491; second, by Nebuchadnezzar, in B.C. 588; third, by Haman in A.D. 4, and then Hitler in A.D. 1939 to 1945.

A Riddle To Their Enemies

Thus Israel remains a riddle to their enemies who cannot understand the secret of their immortality. However, to the student of Bible prophecy, the answer is very obvious.

A dear friend of ours in Tel Aviv, Israel, Dr. James Yuk, recently put it this way:

"Imagine if any nation had

Yours most sincerely,
JOHN R. GILPIN, Editor
The Baptist Examiner,
Russell, Kentucky

been obliged to live, like Israel, outside of its own fatherland not for one generation, but for 60—what would have been left of them? There would have remained only a memory and some scientific works dealing with a people long since disappeared. Such are the irrefutable laws of history.

"Why then is Israel, in contravention of all the laws of history, still alive after the passing of 60 generations and alive not only in memory, but in actual fact—and now established as a nation? On May 15, 1948 the Hebrew population of the Holy Land declared themselves as constituting an independent state, acknowledged by the world's greatest powers. People are not writing ancient history about Israel now. Israel itself is again making history in its own land to which it has returned and is returning.

"Why do the universal laws of history fail to operate in the case of Israel? God's Word shows us that Israel does constitute an exception to the laws of history which proclaim that every nation is born, lives and dies. According to the laws of history Israel should be dead. But there operates another law established by the Supreme Law-Giver Himself for this exceptional case. He has introduced a special law of the preservation of Israel and no human authority or power—past, present or future—can change that plan—for God has firmly declared that His purpose cannot be altered.

This has not been understood by the nations which have had to do with Israel. What is distressing is that Israel himself, in the course of his own history, very often has not understood this, and still does not. Have men determined to hinder God in carrying out His purpose? Alas, what a senseless undertaking! Not only have other nations been so rash as to attempt to change His declared plans concerning Israel, but even Israel has sought to change them with reference to himself."

That ends the quotation from our physician in Tel Aviv, Dr. Yuk, who has lived there in the land for many years.

The Phenomenon Of Jewish Survival

We can explain the physical

survival of the Jews—there is a satisfactory explanation, and I am going to tell you why the Jewish nation has survived: why there is this one nation on the face of the earth that is indestructible. I am going to tell you why the Jew can not be rubbed out. Statements from Holy Scriptures give the answer to this riddle, this phenomenon of Jewish survival. Listen to Jeremiah, that very unusual Jewish prophet of old, speaking for the Lord God:

"They (the nation of Israel) shall not cease from being a nation before me forever" (Jeremiah 31:36).

Through Malachi, God's messenger who prophesied to the restored remnant after the 70 year Babylonian captivity, God also said:

"I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed" (Malachi 3:6).

We all readily admit that the Jewish people have a faculty of getting back on their feet, no matter how hard their fall. However, their own strength for existence is not the answer to their immortality as a nation. The only answer is GOD.

—Coulson Shepherd

An Earnest Appeal

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needs:

1. The Word of God. I can still hear the voice of one of the missionaries as he pled with me with tears in his eyes, before I left that land, for a supply of Bibles and testaments in different languages. "For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit." (Hebrews 4:12).

2. Food. The plight of the Jewish Christian in many lands is still most deplorable. For \$5.00, \$10.00 or \$15.00 a food parcel can be sent to relieve the acute distress of these twice-forsaken brothers in Christ.

3. Missionaries. From many parts of the world we receive calls for more workers. \$30.00 to \$200.00 a month—depending on the country—will support a missionary.

These are only a few of the immediate needs. Beloved friend, how can any follower of Christ fail to respond to such a challenge?

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