

# 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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## THE INDEPENDENCY OF BAPTIST CHURCHES

The False Idea That A Baptist Church Must "Belong" To Something.

by ROY MASON  
Tampa, Florida

Who does a genuine Baptist Church belong to? The answer is—TO ONE PERSON, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. Why does it belong to him? The answer to this is found in Acts 20:28, "The church of God which he hath purchased with his own blood." Reference there was to the church at Ephesus particularly, but the same is true of every other true church. Again we read, "The churches of Christ salute you." That tells who owns the churches. But there has grown up the idea

that churches belong to a larger ecclesiastical body. Often Baptists speak in this way: "We belong to such and such Association," or "We belong to the State Convention," or "We belong to the Southern Baptist Convention." And it is to be feared that some of our ecclesiastical brethren connected in a leading way with some of these general bodies, look upon the churches as being OWNED BY ASSOCIATION OR CONVENTION. For that reason in some cases "quotas" have been assign-

ed, and orders have been given.

We have known Baptist churches that did not yield their independence to any general Baptist body, and they were criticized very severely. New comers were warned against them and told, "That church is not a Baptist church—it doesn't belong to the Association." But a Baptist church doesn't have to "belong to" any Association, or any general Baptist group in order to be a genuine Baptist church. Churches of the New Testament time didn't "belong to" anything. Baptist churches down through the cen-

(Continued on page eight)

## Baptist Baptism—The Only True Baptism Ever Known

IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER KIND, IT WILL NOT BE RECOGNIZED AS VALID IN HEAVEN

Jesus walked sixty miles to be immersed in the river Jordan by the first Baptist preacher. That explains why Baptists are sticklers for immersion and for Baptist baptism. They were started that way and the Master told us to do as He did. The Bible, our guide-book, makes baptism so clear and plain that anybody can read it out of the Book, if they want to. That is why so many of the common people are Baptists. I could tell you, if I had the time, how that when there were no Baptists in Germany John G. Oncken, made a Baptist by reading the New Testament, started to England to find a Baptist preacher to baptize him. I. N. Yohannon, a Persian, converted under a Presbyterian Missionary, read the New Testament and came from Persia to New York to get Baptist baptism. In the island of Cuba, Diaz became a Baptist from reading the New Testament. That is why in the state of Parahyba, Brazil, men converted under a Presbyterian missionary, and made Baptists by reading the New Testament, sent for a Baptist preacher in Pernambuco to come

up and baptize them. Baptists take the Bible as it reads and don't try to explain it away. It says that John was baptizing in Enon near to Salem because there was much water there (John 3:23). Baptists believe what the Bible says and hunt "much water" when they go to baptize. The Bible says that Jesus came to the Jordan to be baptized of John (Matt. 3:13). That is why Baptists go to the water instead of bringing the water to the candidate. The Bible says Jesus was baptized in Jordan (Mark 1:9). That is why Baptists baptize in water instead of putting water on the candidate.

The Bible says that Philip and the eunuch went down into the water (Acts 8:38). That is why Baptists do it that way today. The Bible describes baptism as a burial and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-4). That is why Baptists insist that immersion only is baptism. The Bible says that Jesus after His baptism came up straightway out of the water (Mark 1:10). It takes "much water," "going to the water," "going into the water," a burial and a resurrection and a "coming out of the water" to make a Bible baptism. That is why Baptists will not have any other kind. There isn't any other kind in the Bible and Baptists will not accept for doctrines the commandments of men (Matt. 15:9).—H. B. Taylor

### IF YOU PLAN TO SMOKE IN BED

Have you seen one of the new warning cards now appearing in hotels and motels. This is what is on it: "Inform the Hotel Desk where to send your remains. "Leave a list of your nearest relatives at the Desk. "Leave your Last Will and Testament with the Clerk. "Check your insurance policy, making sure the premium is paid. "Inform the guests on each side of you of your intentions to endanger their lives. "Advise others on your floor to check the nearest fire escape or exit. "Have a fire extinguisher near at hand. "Call the local fire department and ask them to stand by for fire-call from your room. "(Signed) FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU."

We should like to add: "Whether you plan to smoke in bed or not, you should be prepared for fatal accidents, possible to occur at night—for death does not end (Continued on page six)

## THE CHURCH AND MISSIONARY ACTIVITY

A Baptist church is a missionary church! If it is not missionary in outlook, it is not fulfilling its function and has sadly misinterpreted its marching orders. This does not mean that a Baptist church should be the prey of every type and kind of missionary society. If we really accept the Bible teaching on the nature of the church, we will want to support a missionary program which issues in the establishment of Bible churches. The so-called inter-denominational, undenominational or non-denominational type of society which does not establish New Testament churches will have no appeal if we would be scriptural and true to what we profess to believe about the church.

We would venture to say, however, that if Baptist money were withdrawn from societies which send out missionaries to establish non-Baptistic churches, those same societies would cease to function or else would be forced to conduct a scriptural program. When we say this we do not in-

(Continued on page six)

### OUR RADIO MINISTRY

WTCR—1420 ON THE DIAL  
ASHLAND, KENTUCKY  
Sunday—8:30-9:00 A. M.

WNRG—1250 ON THE DIAL  
GRUNDY, VIRGINIA  
Sunday—8:30-9:00 A. M.

## Bible Reasons Why A Sinner Is Not To Pray To Be Saved

A CLEAR REFUTATION OF THE SO-CALLED "ALTAR" AND "MOURNER'S BENCH" PRACTICES

By BOB L. ROSS

This article is written with no other purpose than to point lost souls to the only source of salvation, peace of soul, and spiritual joy—Jesus Christ. I realize that many will bitterly resent what is written herein and will oppose



ELD. BOB L. ROSS

and slander this message. But I write out of no bitter motive whatsoever, and I only ask that those who have hitherto believed in the practice of sinners' praying for salvation, give us a fair hearing.

I extend a challenge to every

reader to diligently compare what is herewith set forth with the clear and unmistakable teachings of God's Word. If the Scriptures and, I trust, the Spirit-led logic of this article are erroneous, then by no means accept them. But if they be truthful, then because they are truth, accept them and act accordingly.

We write not to condemn persons, but to point souls to the All-Sufficient Saviour, thus leading them away from a practice which would cause them to miss Him.

"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else."—Isaiah 45:22.

I doubt if there is a reader of this tract who is not familiar with what is commonly called the "altar" or the "mourner's bench." So I see no need of giving a description or definition of what is meant by these terms. At the very heart of such practices is the teaching that prayer is essential for a sinner to be saved. Whether one is an extremist in this practice or only moderate in his use of a so-called "altar," (Continued on page three)

### GRAHAM WEARING SATAN'S YOKE

The local press carried a report July 7, 1956, that Evangelist Billy Graham will appear on a program of the National Council of Churches.

This is nothing new with compromising Billy. It seems to make no difference to him if his associates and friends are modernists who deny the virgin birth and the blood atonement of Christ. He has bowed in submission to a unchristian and questionable organization known as the National Council of Churches of Christ.

Billy Graham teaches four things contrary to God's Word. We cannot endorse a man who wilfully promotes these four things:

1. Integration of the races. That is, he believes and teaches that Negroes and whites should mix. This is a sin.

2. He joins in union meetings with those who teach that man is saved by works when the Bible teaches "Ye must be born again" by the grace of God without works.

(Continued on page six)

## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

### "The Lies Of The Bible"

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple."—Psa. 19:7.

If you didn't know me, I might have hesitated to announce this subject in advance. The subject itself has a unsavory flavor attached to it possibly indicating that I have turned modernistic, and that I am seeking to indicate that there are lies, discrepancies, inaccuracies, contradictions and falsehoods within the Bible. Believe me, beloved, that is the farthest from my mind as I begin this message. In fact, I couldn't believe this Book to be

God's Book more than I believe it now. I couldn't believe that it is completely free from inaccuracies and falsehoods more than I do now. Rather, I insist that this Bible is the Word of God and that in every particular it is entirely free of all inaccuracies, falsehoods, contradictions, and lies of every description.

I say then, that God's Book is a perfect Book. How could it be otherwise, when God is its author? Listen:

"ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY INSPIRATION OF GOD, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruc-

tion in righteousness."—II Tim. 3:16.

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God SPAKE AS THEY WERE MOVED BY THE HOLY GHOST."—II Pet. 1:21.

Beloved, you can't read these verses without the realization that the Bible is the Word of God. There are two texts that most emphatically insist upon the verbal accuracy and inspiration of the Bible. I say then, beloved friends, how could this Bible which came from God, which has a perfect author — how could (Continued on page two)



## THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

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## TO BE IN BRISTOL, TENN., AUGUST 25, 26

Your editor is to be with Elder T. B. Freeman, speaking for the Temple Baptist Church of Bristol, Tenn., of which Elder Freeman is pastor, on Saturday evening, August 25, and Sunday morning, August 26.



ELDER T. B. FREEMAN

In view of the fact that we have many readers of THE BAPTIST EXAMINER in that area, we take pleasure in telling you of this appointment, and thus we invite you to worship with us on this particular occasion. I am sure that I speak the sentiment of Brother Freeman as well as that of myself, when I extend to you an invitation to be with us for the services.



## EDITOR VISITS CHURCH AT ANSTED, W. VA.

On Sunday, August 5, at the 11 o'clock hour, it was a joy to preach for Pastor Watson K. Dufour and the Beacon Baptist Church of Ansted, W. Va.

Here is a church that has come up through much tribulation during the last few years, and which stands today to give an unwavering testimony for our Lord against lodgism, feminism, and worldliness, and at the same time they uncompromisingly preach the glorious doctrines of grace, and the church that Jesus built.

I have known of this work since its beginning a few brief years ago, and I thank God for the manner whereby it has grown. Although they still have only a small membership, they are now the possessors of a very nice small building, which is practically paid for, and they have the sympathy of all spiritually-minded individuals in that area who realize that this church is standing for the right, against the opposition of all enemies to the truth. I don't know when I have been with any group wherein I have personally received more of a blessing than I did on this particular Sunday of recent date. We are looking forward with a great deal of anticipation, expecting God's blessings to richly rest upon this church in the future.

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

PAGE TWO

AUGUST 25, 1956

## Our Readers Write...

"Thank the Lord for John R. Gilpin. His enemies say he is always begging. Every one of them, that I know, has a nice house and auto and a fat salary. They should be the last to criticize him. If asking for money to print tracts, send out THE BAPTIST EXAMINER and preach the Gospel in Mexico is begging, then I'm for the old beggar and here is my check to prove it. It is an honour to me to be able to support a man who stands for the Truth like Bro. Gilpin."—P. R. Wamsley, Texas

"I am 66 years old and have gone to church all my life. By reading THE BAPTIST EXAMINER I learned about a year ago that I was an Arminian. I have learned more in the last year or two than in all the other years put together."—W. R. Shawl, Penna.

"We have been taking THE BAPTIST EXAMINER for about 10 months and I surely do enjoy reading it. I look forward each week for the paper. May God bless you in your work. May you live many years to carry on God's work. We need more people like you that are not afraid to tell the people the truth. It seems like people are getting away from the Bible and God's teaching. Thanks for printing the paper."—Mrs. Haydie Robinson, Arkansas

"Thank our Lord for John R. Gilpin. And I am glad that he doesn't fear man nor the Devil, and that he knows a lot about the Word of God. I think that he is a sound Baptist."—Brother Terry Cole, Arkansas

"I'm enclosing a gift to help you with the great work you are doing. I have received much good from this Gospel paper. I pray you will keep on keeping on, for the Lord."—Bro. Renick Williams, Ohio

"We are praying for you and TBE. We know it is the greatest paper of this day. It is doing more to establish churches and Christians than any other. As the Lord blesses, we will do what we can to help with it."—Missionary Baptist Church, Gallagher, W. Va.

"I've never enjoyed reading any material better than your paper. Continue me on for a life time as I will be glad to help your cause."—James Theros, Alabama

"We all enjoy the paper so much. Thank God for the wonderful spirit every time we pick up the paper and read it. Don't give up the work the Lord has laid out for you to do. There is a higher reward for us all up there some day. May God bless you and your family."—Mr. and Mrs. Hershel White, West Virginia

"I like the paper very much. It helps me to better understand my Bible. The youth section is very good."—Mrs. Leland Morris, Kentucky

"I deeply appreciate the stand THE BAPTIST EXAMINER takes for truth in these perilous days. This check for \$5.00 is a small gesture of expression of my appreciation. May God bless you."—Mrs. R. R. Scott, Tennessee

"Enclosed find two dollars for use in the work you are doing. Wife and I enjoy TBE so much. It seems that those who preach the whole truth are becoming less in number so fast. May God's blessings continue with you till He comes."—A. D. Spearman, Alabama

"I enjoy the paper so much. It is so true to God's Word and teaching. Every reader would get more than his money's worth from one issue."—Mrs. Maude L. Glass, Tennessee

"I wanted to write long ago how much I appreciate and enjoy your wonderful little paper. There is such lack of good Bible preaching and Baptist doctrines and I cannot see that after all these years the paper will cease to be printed because of lack of funds. I believe the Lord will provide and the paper will continue for a long time to come."—V. F. Dietrich, Florida

"We do appreciate your paper and hope this small token will aid in keeping the press rolling. We receive such a blessing in reading TBE, and the way you bring the wonderful truths of God's Word to many who might otherwise never know of the salvation our Lord has given to those who believe and repent."—Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Davis, California

"I think you are doing a wonderful work and my prayer is that you may be spared many years in your work. I like this little paper so much that I can hardly wait to read it when I get it."—S. King Campbell, Michigan

"I can not tell in words how much good I get out of your paper. It is a great help to me in my Bible study and I do pray that the press debt will be paid in full. I can hardly lay THE BAPTIST EXAMINER down till I have read it. I think it is wonderful."—Mrs. Fred I. Hoppe, Kansas

"Your uncompromising stand for the truth has been a blessing. I hope and pray you will be able to carry on, and that God's people will have rallied to your aid."—Paul Holman, Ontario, Canada

"I am enclosing a check for \$2.00 as a donation because your paper has been a great help to me. I am young in the ministry but I am an old man in my sixties, but I get more help from your sermons than I do from every other book."—Whitson Garrett, Texas

"Just received the last issue of TBE and always glad to get it and read the wonderful articles in it. I am glad and thankful that we still have a few that stand for truth and right."—E. D. Green, Mississippi

"Have only been receiving TBE a short while. Sure do enjoy reading it, and thank the Lord for the stand it takes for Bible truth."—L. L. Beacham, Texas

"Of the many religious periodicals and Christian publications that I receive, none can compare with THE BAPTIST EXAMINER as to the true Gospel message."—DeWayne W. Austin, Ohio

"We still enjoy THE BAPTIST EXAMINER. Get lots of spiritual blessings from it. Just pray it will continue to go, for we believe it is the true Word of God."—Mr. and Mrs. Paul Taylor, Louisiana

"It's been a long time since I last wrote you but I still get my paper. It's the only paper I take. Have been taking it since 1931. I am 74 years old and I know it is the soundest religious paper I know of anywhere."—W. R. Powell, Texas

"It is the greatest paper that I have ever read, and I sincerely hope and pray that your wishes for it are fulfilled. I certainly do believe in spreading the Gospel, and I consider TBE the surest way to get the true Gospel before the people."—Eld. Albert M. Hallmark, California

"I am one of your subscribers to THE BAPTIST EXAMINER, which I thoroughly enjoy each week. I haven't taken the paper very long, but I can truly say it is by far the best, most Scriptural Christian paper that I have ever taken, and I now take ten different ones (all Baptist). I want you to know this for it thrills my very soul, but my mother read some of my BAPTIST EXAMINERS and was convinced after reading them, and the Bible along with them, that she was a Baptist, after being in a Methodist Church and in a Cumberland Presbyterian Church since she was thirteen years old, and she is now seventy-one years of age. I had the privilege of seeing my pastor, Bro. W. H. Fisher of Lufkin, Texas, baptize her on her 71st birthday on March 20th of this year. So you see she has been saved 58 years and now sees that the Bible makes Baptists out of saved people if they have proper instructions. Thank you for this wonderful paper that makes us see and know the truth as it is in the Bible.

I am an Independent Baptist myself and am happy to be saved, after being a lost Sunday School teacher for 25 years in a Methodist Church. I am a Baptist by conviction and how I love your paper because it is the truth as the Bible teaches us, and not some man-made religion. I've found the truth and I love it."—Mrs. J. B. Rozell, Texas

## BACK ISSUES OF TBE

We often have requests for extra copies of past issues of THE BAPTIST EXAMINER. We usually have a number left over after each printing of the paper, and thus we are able to supply many of the requests. Below we list a few of the issues, and one of the feature articles of the issues:

May 19, 1956—The History and Trilemma Of The Campbellite Society.

July 7, 1956—A Review Of John R. Rice And Storehouse Tithing.

July 21, 1956—Just How Modern Is Modernism?

July 28, 1956—The Idolatry Of All The Non-Denominational Crowd.

If you can use any of these papers, then write us.

## SERIES ON REVELATION

At present, your editor is engaged in preaching a series of sermons on the Book of Revelation. They will all be printed in full in this paper beginning about the first of September.

Invite your friends always to read THE BAPTIST EXAMINER, and especially ask them to read these messages on this much misunderstood portion of God's Word.

If some sermons were for sale, they should be labeled: "Dry goods and notions."

"I think you print some wonderful sermons in THE BAPTIST EXAMINER and don't flinch from the truth."—Mrs. John W. Read, Louisiana

"I have enjoyed your paper very much since Tom Dye of Marion sent a year's subscription to me. I know it has made a better Christian of me and has helped me in my reading and understanding of the Bible. I, therefore, am sending this small amount to help you on the press. My prayer is for God to open up the hearts of the people that take your paper so they may send a small bit of money to help further your good work."—D. L. Gounflo, Ohio

"We really enjoy TBE. Look forward for it from week to week. Have especially enjoyed Bro. Bob Ross' articles on Arminianism. He has given us light on several passages of Scripture that we had wanted to know. We hope and pray that when the day the note is due you will have enough for it and some to spare. May the Lord bless all of you who have a part in sending out TBE. May it continue until the Lord says it's enough."—Mr. and Mrs. Davis Cooper, Kentucky

"We really get a blessing from your paper each week. May the Lord lay it on everyone's heart to help meet the debt in June, and keep the paper going."—Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Bailey, Georgia

"I still think THE BAPTIST EXAMINER is the best. I hope and pray God keeps it going out. Thank God for what it has helped me."—Cletus R. Snyder, North Carolina

"We receive your wonderful paper and it blesses our hearts each time we read it. Enclosed you will find our love offering to help you with your expense. May God bless you and supply your need in this hour is our prayer."—Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hutto, Texas

"Approximately two months ago I received a copy of your paper and I have neglected to write and tell you how much I enjoy it. To me it is the greatest paper today that I know of in spreading God's Word and truth."—Mrs. Jesse Shea, Kentucky

"I'm enclosing \$5.00 on the press. I trust it will help in covering the amount due. Can truly say I enjoy each issue and look forward to it still being in print for years to come."—Mrs. Hollis Locke, Louisiana

"Just a few words to express our appreciation for your work in giving out the truth in TBE. We enjoy it more with each issue. Enclosed is a small amount to help you with the note on your press. May God bless you and your labors."—J. F. Ehm, Kansas

"I am sending you a small gift of ten dollars. I certainly would not want to see TBE discontinued. We need a printed page that stands up for the truth of God's Word in all things when so many of our churches and ministers have gone modern and are compromising with the world. I am praying for you in all of the work that you are doing, for I know, having been a subscriber to TBE ever since it has been in print, that all of your heart's desire is to glorify the Lord and His wonderful works. My prayer is that the Lord may see fit to keep this paper in print until His return."—A. D. Helveston, Florida

"In view of the faith we have had in you and your work for more than a quarter of a century, we are sending you this check. Continue to pray for us, as we pray for you and your work."—John E. Deal, Ohio

"I have never written to you about TBE, but have planned to many times. I believe it is the best paper being sent out for a child of God to read. I especially like the effort you put forth in it to fight this 'God-dis-honoring Arminianism.'—Earl G. Singleton, Virginia

"I appreciated your last letter requesting that those who love you and the great TBE would pray for you and the paper. We think more of it year by year, and if TBE were to cease there would be a void hard to fill. May God's great grace and power be your support and stay in these trying days."—Elder Carey E. Witt, Kentucky

"I will send check for the continuance of EXAMINER for I feel should you fail and paper stop, the loss will be great. TBE has so much helpful words for those who like the truth. I trust help comes that you may get the money for your needs. I believe God will not fail you."—J. M. Pierce, Kentucky

"I've been getting your paper for a few years and I want to help a little to keep it going, for surely such a paper is so very much needed in these days."—R. C. Fuson, Illinois

"Here's just a small gift to help pay the bills. TBE has been a great blessing to me for several years. Wish there were more who would preach the whole counsel of God."—Tom Murrell, Indiana

"We pray for you daily, and we are deeply concerned about your work. We feel that it would be a serious personal loss to us if THE BAPTIST EXAMINER were discontinued."—Alfred H. J. Riemann, Florida

"I noticed in TBE these words, 'do you care.' I certainly do care. TBE is a welcome guest in our home each week. I believe I can say honestly that it has helped each of us to a better understanding of the Word of God."—W. S. Hardman, W. Va.

"We are so thankful for the 'meat' that you send out each week through THE BAPTIST EXAMINER. We are thankful for each person who helps in the editing of TBE. May there be more true servants of the Lord that are not afraid of the ones who can destroy this body, but may they fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in Hell."—C. A. McDaniel, Kentucky

"Find enclosed \$1.00 to help you on your press. I don't want it to stop."—G. M. Inglehart, Kentucky

"We think THE BAPTIST EXAMINER the best in circulation."—V. L. Hooper, Tennessee

"We like the EXAMINER so much, as we know it gives the Bible truths, as so many papers do not. We know you are doing a great work for the Lord and hope you will continue the paper."—Mr. and Mrs. Odell Wallace, Florida

"The only thing we can look forward to is the coming of the Lord when we will get out of this sinful place. I know you have fought a hard fight and my prayer is that TBE may continue in years to come, and may people be convicted of their sins through the reading of it. We need more men like you who will stand up for Christ and not be afraid of telling the truth, for the world needs to know the truth concerning Christ."—Clyde W. Ray, Kentucky

"I find THE BAPTIST EXAMINER of much spiritual blessing to me. I want to offer words of encouragement to each and all of you who are laboring so faithfully in editing the Gospel, the good news of salvation. I feel it is in simplicity, and Godly sincerity."—Mrs. Harm Rust, Minnesota

"We enjoy reading your paper and hope you are able to continue the good work."—Craig Dillman, Missouri

"We have been greatly encouraged by your paper and truly God has blessed you in bringing the uncompromised truth to men. May He continue His blessings on you and yours in this faithful ministry with THE BAPTIST EXAMINER. We greatly enjoy your Bible philosophy printed in sentence form across the top of each page. There is more wisdom and truth in the words than realized if one takes the time to read them. We would miss the EXAMINER if it should be discontinued, so our earnest prayers are with you in your time of need now, and keep on keeping on, for we enjoy every word of it from front to back cover."—Mr. and Mrs. Jack Palmer, Florida

## "The Lies Of The Bible"

(Continued from page one)  
this Book be anything else but a perfect Book? In fact, with a perfect author — God Himself — you couldn't expect anything but perfection so far as the Word of God is concerned.

I insist, beloved, that the Word of God is pure. Listen:

"Every word of God is PURE." Prov. 30:5.

There are no mistakes about the Bible; it is all the pure Word of God. Yet, beloved, though it is the pure Word of God, there are some lies that others have told that are recorded within the Bible, and I would like to show you some of these lies, that you and I might learn therefrom.

## I

THE LIE OF THE DEVIL.  
"And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die."—Gen. 3:4.

This was the very first lie that was ever told. In fact, it was not only the first lie that was told in the Garden of Eden, but it was the first lie that was ever told in all the past six thousand years of earth's history. It was told by the Devil as he impersonated the serpent, and as he spoke through the serpent to Eve.

Jesus said the Devil was a liar. Listen:

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do: he was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no (Continued on page seven)



## "Mourner's Bench"

(Continued from page one)

the basic principle is that prayer is necessary in order to save or that prayer will help save a lost sinner.

Here are a number of Bible reasons why such doctrine is untrue and why no one should believe, preach, or practice such.

1. No where in the Bible does God command the sinner to pray for salvation. One will search in vain to find the passage that teaches such. God's command throughout is repentance from sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

2. To speak of an "altar of prayer" for the sinner is entirely unscriptural and heretical. The word for "altar" in the Old Testament means "the slaughter place." In the New Testament, the Greek word for "altar" means "a place of sacrifice." "Mizbeach" is the Hebrew word in the Old Testament, and "thusiasterion" is the Greek word in the New Testament. The Bible clearly teaches that the animal sacrifices which were offered on the altar in Old Testament times were types of the Lord Jesus Christ who offered Himself as the Sacrifice for sin. Wherever you find an altar of any kind, you will find that the very first act which the worshipper of God did was to offer a sacrifice for sin. Every other act of worship, including prayer, always followed the offering of the sacrifice. In other words, they were saved by faith in Christ's sacrifice (typified by the animal sacrifices), and then prayer and all other acts of worship followed. To put prayer before faith in the sacrifice for salvation is to reverse God's order.

3. Notice some more truth as to the Scriptural altar. When Abraham and his son Isaac prepared to go upon Mount Moriah to worship God, the youngster, not knowing that he himself was to be the sacrifice, asked his father: "Behold, the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Isaac realized that neither he nor his father could approach God except that they first offer a sacrifice for sin (type of Christ's sacrifice). Yet some people today instead of pointing men to Jesus Christ's sacrifice, point men to "an altar of prayer," thinking that the sinner can do that which Abraham and Isaac dared not even attempt.

4. The prayer of a sinner is an abomination to God. In Proverbs 15:8, we read: "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord: but the prayer of the upright is his delight." Clearly do we see that the "sacrifice of the wicked" here referred to is prayer since it is contrasted with the prayer of the upright. The reason that God so regards the unsaved one's prayer is that the individual has no sacrifice for his sins. But the sinner who has received Christ as the Sacrifice for his sins is "upright" before God, and his prayers are acceptable and delightful to God.

5. The sinner who prays for God to forgive his sins is simply asking God to set aside His divine Law and to permit the individual's sins to go unpunished. This to me is the most outrageous thing about the teaching of prayer for salvation. In reality it is the

request of the most wicked creature on earth for the Most High to abandon His throne. From the book of Genesis to The Revelation, God's Word declares that no sin—either of saint or of sinner—will go unpunished.

"Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne."—Psa. 89:14.

"Every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward."—Hebrews 2:2.

"The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked."—Nahum 1:3.

If God were to answer the prayer of the sinner to "let him off" for his sins, it would prove one thing: God is simply not God.

What would we say of the court which freed a criminal who had committed the crimes of kidnapping, rape, murder, and butchery of a small child, simply because that man sincerely confessed his crime and was exceedingly sorry for doing it? We would say that such a court is absolutely lawless. To think of such a thing is even detestable. A court is to enforce law!

But how much more horrifying is it to picture God as one who lets the sinner off because the sinner prays! Such a doctrine would produce a lawless universe were it not for God's Word. Prayer cannot atone for sin. Sin is not punished at a "mourner's bench" or at an "altar of prayer." As the blessed hymn says:

"Could my tears forever flow,  
Could my zeal no languor know;

These for sin could not atone,  
Thou must save and Thou alone."

Sinner, if you would be free from all your sins, if you would find forgiveness, then look to that Sacrifice which alone atones for sin, satisfying the divine Law of God. Look to Christ!

6. Salvation is received through faith and not through prayer. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."—Ephesians 2:8.

The Gospel of John was written for the express purpose of teaching men how to be saved. "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." Not one single verse in this Gospel instructs sinners to pray for the forgiveness of sins. But it literally bubbles over with instructions such as the following verse: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."—John 6:47.

7. The example of Jesus Christ in the winning of souls proves that a sinner does not have to pray in order to be saved. I cite one instance in particular which should leave us without a doubt as to this truth. In the ninth chapter of

John, we have the account of the healing by Christ of the man who was born blind. This man was healed before he was saved. After he was healed and before he was saved, he made this statement in that heated discussion with the Jews which followed Christ's performing the miracle of giving him his sight: "Now we know that God heareth not sinners."

Here then was an unsaved man who did not believe that God would hear sinners pray. After the man was later cast out of the temple, Jesus found him. If prayer for salvation is true, this man was wrong, and here was the most opportune occasion that Christ ever had to teach the world the truth as to praying for salvation. But what did He say to this man? Here is the conversation as recorded in John 9:35-38:

"Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, 'Dost thou believe on the Son of God?' He answered and said, 'Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?' And Jesus said unto him, 'Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.' And he said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him."

No altar, no mourner's bench, no prayer for salvation, was preached by Jesus Christ. He preached Himself for salvation! He said nothing whatsoever in opposition to the belief that God would not hear sinners pray. Why? Because it was the truth. That blind man, no doubt, had learned this truth from the Jewish teachers of the Old Testament. He evidently heard them teaching God's Word on the subject from such passages as Proverbs 15:8 and Proverbs 21:27. If prayer is an essential to salvation, then the first thing Christ would have taught this man would have been the necessity of his praying. Reader, what would your preacher have told this man to do to be saved: pray or believe?

Of course Christ saved others without their praying, such as the woman at the well (John 4), the woman taken in adultery (John 8), Zacchaeus (Luke 19), the woman in Simon's house (Luke 7),

and many others. In fact, one will fail to find a single occasion of Christ's resorting to such methods in saving sinners. And He is still the same Christ today (Hebrews 13:8).

8. The example of Paul, the great missionary in the winning of souls to Jesus Christ, proves that salvation is not to be had through prayer. Again I think that we have a classic example which reveals this fact. If prayer is essential to salvation, then certainly Paul would have so instructed the trembling jailer in the city of Philippi. In Acts 16:30, we have recorded the question which the jailer asked Paul and Silas: "Sirs, what must I do to be saved." The Apostle Paul and his co-laborer Silas were in absolute agreement with one another as to the way of salvation and in direct disagreement with those today who preach prayer for salvation. We read in Acts 16:31:

"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

I have heard preachers preach sermons on this verse, and when they closed their message they gave an "altar call." But if there were an "altar" in this place, there is not one scintilla of a hint of such a thing. Again, dear reader, what would your preacher have told the jailer to do: pray or believe?

9. It is the gospel of Christ that is the power of God unto salvation, and not prayer. "For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel."—I Corinthians 4:15. And in Romans 1:16 we read: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

Read Paul's definition of the Gospel in I Corinthians 15:1-4, (Continued on page six)

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# Baptist Youth Witness

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"O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works."—Psa. 71:17

## PAT GETS JUSTICE

CHRIST IS THE SINNER'S SUBSTITUTE

By Charles H. Spurgeon

Once when I was in the vestry, an Irishman came to see me. Pat began by making a low bow and saying, "Now, Your Riverence, I have come to ax you a question."

"Oh, Pat," said I, "I am not a Riverence; it is not a title I care for; but what is your question, and how is it you have not been to your priest about it?"

He said, "I have been to him, but I don't like his answer."

"Well, what is your question?"

Said he, "God is just, and if God is just, He must punish my sins. I deserve to be punished. If He is a just God, He ought to punish me; yet you say God is merciful and will forgive sins. I cannot see how that is right; He has no right to do that. He ought to be just and punish those who deserve it. Tell me how God can be just and yet be merciful."

"That is through the blood of Christ."

"Yes," said he, "that is what my priest said. You are very much alike there. But he said a good deal besides that I did not understand; and that short answer does not satisfy me. I want to know how it is that the blood of Jesus Christ enables God to be just and yet to be merciful."

Then I saw what he wanted to know, and I explained the plan of salvation thus:

"Now, Pat, suppose you had been killing a man, and the judge had said, 'That Irishman must be hanged!'"

He said quickly, "And I should have richly deserved to be hanged."

"But, Pat, suppose I was very fond of you. Can you see any way by which I could save you from being hanged?"

"No, sir, I cannot."

"Then suppose I went to the Queen and said, 'Please, Your Majesty, I am very fond of this Irishman. I think the judge was quite right in saying that he must be hanged, but let me be hanged instead, and you will then carry out the law!' Now the Queen could not agree to my proposal; but suppose she could—and God

can, for He has power greater than all kings and queens—and suppose the Queen should have me hanged instead of you; do you think the policeman would take you up afterward?"

He at once said, "No, I should think not; they would not meddle with me; but if they did, I should say, 'What are you doing? Did not that gentleman condescend to be hung for me? Let me alone; shure, you don't want to hang two people for the same thing, do ye?'"

I replied to the Irishman, "Ah, my friend, you have hit it; that is the way whereby we are saved! God must punish sin. Christ said, 'My Father, punish me instead of the sinner,' and His Father did. God laid on His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, the whole burden of our sins, and all their punishment and chastisement; now that Christ is punished instead of us, God would not be just if He were to punish any sinner who believes on the Lord Jesus Christ. If thou believest in Jesus Christ, the well-beloved and only-begotten Son of God, thou art saved, and thou mayest go on thy way rejoicing."

"Faith," said the man, clapping his hands, "that's the gospel! Pat is safe now, with all his sins about him; he'll trust in the Man who died for him, and so he shall be saved."

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." Rom. 5:6-9.

## GOD'S BIG ANSWERS



### TO MAN'S BIG QUESTIONS

What is my spiritual condition?

"All we like sheep have gone astray."—Isa. 53:6.

"The Scripture hath concluded all under sin."—Gal. 3:22.

"Without Christ . . . having no hope and without God in the world."—Eph. 2:12.

Am I really accountable to God?

"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."—Rom. 14:12.

What will the end be, if I go on in my present condition?

"For the wages of sin is death."—Rom. 6:23.

Where will I spend eternity?

"These shall go away into everlasting punishment."—Matt. 25:46.

"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."—Rev. 20:15.

But, will God give me another chance after death?

"Between us and you there is a great gulf fixed; so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us that would come from thence."—Luke 16:26.

Is there any chance for me to be saved?

"The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."—Luke 19:10.

"He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him."—Heb. 7:25.

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."—I Tim. 1:15.

Does God really care for my soul?

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."—John 3:16.

What are the conditions of salvation?

"Testifying both to the Jews and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith to— (Continued on page five)

## WHEN PRAYER IS WRONG

I knew a young lady who once went to a dance. Her Sunday School teacher remonstrated with her and asked her to promise to quit dancing. Her reply was, "Well, I'll pray about it." That wasn't a praying matter. She knew that God's Word said, "Abstain from the appearance of evil," "Be not conformed to this world," "Love not the world, neither the things of the world," etc. Prayer in her case was in the wrong place

—News and Truths.

## Burn Your Shorts And Your Peek-A-Boo Clothing!

By ROY MASON

all around us.

Not only are churches powerless, and devoid of the manifest presence of God because members lack a conscience concerning the things of God—it is in part because church members lack any conscience concerning the things that are wrong. Let me ask you, are you running a Christian home? You claim to be a Christian—does your home look like it? What sort of reading matter is in that home? Do you allow these pernicious and vicious comic books to lie around your home? Is that the sort of stuff that you allow your children to feed on?

Do the women folk around your house dress in shorts? Do they go around half-naked? Listen—there's not one bit of use for anybody to tell me that they don't see any harm in that sort of thing! You are morally and spiritually color blind if you can't see the harm in the lewdness and indecency of much of the dress of this day. Sex crimes don't happen in America once in a while—they happen every day. Sex looseness is breaking homes to pieces all over the nation, and it all goes back very largely to the near-nudity that is to be seen

I am not talking to people who make no religious claims of any kind—I am talking to people who claim to be born-again Christians and I am saying that if you are a Christian woman or girl and have a pair of shorts at home, you ought to go and throw them in the fire. They have no more place in a Christian home than does a keg of beer or a bottle of liquor.

I know what some of you are saying in your mind right now—you are saying, "Oh, you are just too old fashioned—you are just behind the times—why, everybody does it!" Do you say that and pretend to believe in the Bible? If you pretend to believe it, then I suggest that you consider that passage in which the Lord says, "I will . . . that women adorn themselves in modest apparel." (I Timothy 2:8, 9). I suggest to you also that Scripture which says, "Be ye not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed." (Romans 12:2). Instead of giving me "hail Columbia," you just argue with the Lord about those two Scriptures.

—(From a Sermon Published in "Faith and Life.")

## The Little Baptist

Chapter V

DOING GOOD FOR EVIL

One morning Mr. Hamilton opened school by reading the twelfth chapter of Romans. During the reading Mellie marked several places that she desired to have explained, but she preserved silence until the last verse was read: "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." When she asked Mr. Hamilton to explain it, she said: "Mamma talked to me once about doing good for evil, and about forgiving persons who offended me. And I read in my Bible that God said, if we forgive not each other's trespasses, He will not forgive us when we sin against Him. I think that this is the meaning of it, and I thought that this text might mean that by being good to others we could make them better."

Although reserved in giving opinions on any subject that might have sectarian bearing, in this instance Mr. Hamilton felt no such restraints. He was indeed glad of the opportunity of enforcing this text on the minds of his pupils. So after giving his sanction to Mellie's conclusions, he addressed the school as follows:

"We can have no stronger evidence of a firm and well founded Christian principle in a person than to see that one capable of forgiving injuries and returning good for evil. The Saviour taught us to love our enemies, to do good to them that hate us, and to pray for them that despitefully use us, that we may be the children of our Father in Heaven, who maketh His sun to shine on the evil and good, and sendeth the rain on the just and on the unjust. He tells us to be perfect, even as our Father in Heaven is perfect. Paul tells us to let love be without dissimulation, that is, without false pretension or hypocrisy; to abhor that which is evil and cleave to that which is good; to be kindly affectioned one toward another. Again, he says, bless them that persecute you: bless, and curse not, for vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore we should never return evil for evil, but if our enemy hunger, we should feed him, and if he thirst, we should give him drink; for in so doing we heap coals of fire on his head. In this way we may overcome evil with good. Now, for instance, if any of the girls were to mistreat one of you by calling you ill names,

(Continued on page five)



## Our Bible Study

STUDIES IN GALATIANS

by A. M. Overton  
(Now in Glory)

CHAPTER IV

"Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?" v 21.

Strange as it may seem, then and now, those who make the most of the law for salvation, either to get it, or to keep it, know the least about it. They talk glibly about the law, but have never paid any attention to the law, what it is, what it says, what it does, etc. These Galatians, no doubt, could talk endlessly about the law, and their ideas about its necessity, etc., and yet they were

ignorant of the very simplest facts concerning the law.

In verses 22 through 27, the Holy Spirit, through Paul, brings to their attention the allegory, from the law, of Hagar and Sarah, Ishmael and Isaac. Let us notice these verses carefully:

"For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a free-woman. But he who was born of the bondmaid was born after the flesh; but he of the free-woman was by promise. Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from Mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Hagar. For this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which

(Continued on page five)



# "THE LITTLE BAPTIST"

(Continued from page four)

or otherwise abuse you, and you were to get angry and treat them in the same way, that would not be like our Heavenly Father treats those who sin against Him. He ever remains kind to all, and His mercy is over all continually. But if, when you are mistreated, you render kindness in return, and show that you are above doing so low a thing as to treat them in like manner, still manifesting a kind regard for them, you thereby disarm them of malice, and conquer their evil dispositions. This is about what the apostle means by 'heaping coals of fire on their heads.'

"O, yes, I see now," said Mellie, "how that is. I thought that he could not mean putting burning coals on them, because that might make them angry again. I think now that I can understand it all. It's when one does another a great wrong, and gets kind treatment in return, it makes that person so ashamed and so sorry that the sufferings of the heart are as burning coals of fire on the head. O, I do wish that I could understand all that the Bible means, and I intend to keep trying. I'll read it carefully, and I'll get you and Mamma to tell me what I can't understand, and when I get larger I will know more about it."

The conversation now had to give way to other duties, but as they returned to their lessons, a marked difference was manifest in the countenances of the pupils. Mellie's cheerful spirit shone out through her eyes, and lit up her whole countenance with almost angelic brightness. She felt that she had done her duty, and her conscience was at ease. But with Laura Thompson, and several others, the feeling was different. Their sad and downcast looks betrayed an uneasy conscience. They were experiencing something of the effects of "coals of fire on their heads." Their remorse was increased by the belief that their teacher knew of their treatment to Mellie, and intended a personal application of his remarks. The young ladies were not heartless and unkind, but they were gay and thoughtless. Like many of my young readers, they were impulsive and hasty.

Thoughtlessness, however, is a great evil, and often leads to follies whose fruit is a long and bitter repentance. The indulgence of envious and malicious dispositions is seldom followed by pleasant results. But the girls were fairly conquered by kindness; they formed the just and sensible resolution that they would rise by their own exertions, and stand on their own merits, and that they would never again be guilty of an act so dishonorable as trying to injure the good name of a meritorious little schoolmate—they would never again attempt to rise by the downfall of another.

At recess several of the girls went to Mellie with confessions of sorrow, and told her that her kind treatment, together with Mr. Hamilton's lecture, had made them feel so badly that they could not study their lessons without first confessing their faults and asking her forgiveness.

(Continued Next Week, D. V.)

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## Big Answers

(Continued from page four)  
ward our Lord Jesus Christ."—Acts 20:21.

### How important is repentance?

"Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."—Luke 13:3.

### Is faith necessary?

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."—Acts 16:31.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."—John 3:36.

"He that believeth on Him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already."—John 3:18.

### When should I repent and believe on Christ?

"Behold now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."—2 Cor. 6:2.

### What should I do after I am saved?

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men I will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven."—Matt. 10:32.

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized."—Acts 2:41.

"And the Lord added to them day by day those that were saved."—Acts 2:7 (R.V.).

### If saved, how should I live?

"Know ye not that . . . ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."—1 Cor. 6:19, 20.—I. W. Rogers.

## Our Bible Study

(Continued from page four)  
now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an (the) husband" vv 22-27.

It will be very profitable to the reader to take time out right here to turn and read again Genesis, chapters 15 through 21, which will give fresh background for a study of the above verses.

How fortunate we are that the Holy Spirit, through Paul, cites this allegory, names it and gives us the application of it. We are not left to suppose, guess or "figure out" anything about it. It is plain, simple, and easily understood, if we are willing to believe it.

The two covenants of law and grace are represented in the two sons of Abraham—the law by Ishmael, and grace by Isaac. After God's promise of a son and an heir had been given to Abraham, (but the son was not immediately born) Sarah suggested to Abraham that he take her maid, Hagar, saying, "It may be that I may obtain children by her." Instead of waiting for the Lord to fulfill His promise in His own way and time, she "figured out" a way whereby they might, according to their fleshly wisdom

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## For Little Children

### THE LORD SUPPLIES THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL WITH BREAD AND WATER

Boys and girls, after the Lord led the children of Israel safely across the Red Sea, they traveled on through the wilderness to Shur. And as they came to Marah, they found that the water there was bitter and they could not drink it. Then they began to complain against Moses because there was no water to drink.

But the Lord told Moses to throw a certain tree into the waters, and then the water became sweet so that they could drink there.

Then the children of Israel traveled on to Elim where they found many wells of sweet water, and they camped there for awhile.

From Elim they traveled into the wilderness of Sin, and there was no bread there. The people began to be hungry, and they blamed Moses again because they didn't have any bread to eat. But, boys and girls, the children of Israel were not really complaining against Moses; they were really complaining against the Lord.

and desires, help God fulfill His promise. Let it be noted that their plan produced "results," but it was Ishmael, a son born after the flesh, and not Isaac, the son of promise.

Later, in spite of the failure of their own efforts, and contrary to all human reasoning, evidence and expectation, God fulfilled His promise. Years had elapsed since the promise was given, and Sarah laughed to herself at the idea of having a son in her old age (Genesis 18:9-15). But in due time "Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him" (Genesis 21:2).

This allegory is being fulfilled before our eyes in much of our modern evangelism, both professional and pastoral. Not content to proclaim God's "good news" and wait on God to fulfill His promise, preachers and church members try to "help God" by using persuasion, seeking decisions, using "hell-fire and damnation" and death-bed stories to scare lost sinners into profession of faith. Such methods certainly produce "results," but like the efforts dictated by human wisdom in Sarah and Abraham, the results are Ishmaelites, and not children of promise. The churches of the land today are literally filled to the brim with lost people brought into a religious profession by fleshly means.

## WHY I AM A BAPTIST

There is one principle that distinguishes Baptists from all other denominations—a principle that is essential to a Christian Church, and which, if disregarded, would blot the gospel of our salvation from the earth; a principle which is the mission of Baptists alone to maintain and perpetuate, for to them alone it was delivered, to hold and teach. This principle no

And the Lord heard their complaints and so He took care of their needs. Every evening, the Lord caused quails to come into their camp, and so the children of Israel had meat to eat every night. And in the morning, the Lord caused bread to come down from Heaven and to fall on the ground. The bread was like little sweet wafers made with honey. The name of the bread was manna. All that the people had to do to get it was to step out of their tents and pick up as much as they wanted each day. And the children of Israel liked the manna because it gave them strength and life as they ate it.

Boys and girls, the Lord Jesus Christ is our great Bread of Life and our Water of Life from Heaven. We who trust in Him shall never hunger again or thirst again for worldly pleasures because we will be fully satisfied with our Saviour. The Lord Jesus says:

"I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."—John 6:35.

other denomination ever did, does now, or ever can hold. The principle—THE CHURCH AND ITS ORDINANCES BELONG TO THE SAVED ONLY. (John 3:5).

And the Lord added to the church, daily those who were saved, or "the saved." (Acts 2:41).

John came to make ready a people prepared for the Lord—material for Christ's churches and kingdom; he did this according to the express direction and commandment of the Lord. John was not commissioned to build a church for Christ, nor to set up the kingdom of Him whose presence he announced, but only to prepare the material for them.

The kingdom was the ante-type—the reality—of that kingdom foretold by Daniel 603 years before it should be set up by the God of Heaven (Christ) in the days of the kings (emperors) of the fourth universal, the Roman or Iron Kingdom.—J. R. Graves.

## DARKENING SKIES

"The whole world lieth in wickedness."—1 John 5:19.

The skies are growing darker,  
With the passing of the years;  
And life becomes more restless,  
And on every hand are fears:

Men know not what is coming  
Yet feel something lies ahead  
Which fills them with foreboding  
And a solemn sense of dread.

But Christians—we are waiting  
For the breaking of the Day  
We are certain Christ is coming—  
He may now be on the way:

Deeper still will grow Earth's darkness  
Still more awesome grow its night—  
But for Christ our eyes are looking:

Quick may come the rapture bright.

—Selected

"Behold the Lamb of God  
that taketh away the sin of  
the world."—JOHN 1:29





# Paul Gets A Sharp Rebuke

## Graham

(Continued from page 1)

3. He supports the modernistic and unscriptural "cooperative program" of the postmillennial Southern Baptist Convention which is absolutely foreign to God's Word.

4. He endorses the modernistic, questionable National Council of Churches. This is enough to mark him with all Bible-believing Christians.

When Billy Graham repudiates his record on these four points, I will endorse him but not until then.

—Fundamental Baptist Facts.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Let me add numbers five and six to Editor Watkins' list of indictments against Billy Graham, and these are: Graham is an Arminian of the rankest sort, and a universal church heretic. And this paper will not endorse Graham until he repents and renounces these heresies and starts preaching the truth.



## Smoking

(Continued from page 1)

The Scripture says after death, "the judgment." (Hebrews 9:27). There is a grand exception: "There is no condemnation (or judgment) to them which are in Christ Jesus." (Roman 8:1).

The Lord Jesus Himself said: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation (or judgment); but is passed from death unto life." (John 5:24).

Why not heed His word, and rejoice in the assurance of "no Condemnation"?



## Missionary Activity

(Continued from page 1)

tend to suggest that these societies have not been blessed but we do declare that the Lord has in store an indescribable blessing if we would do His work as He has outlined.

Why does Baptist work lag in Canada? Could it be that many Baptists send much more to some non-Baptistic society doing work elsewhere than they do to Baptist endeavours to evangelize this land? By no means do we discount foreign missionary labour; rather let us encourage real Baptist foreign missionary endeavour. At the same time, we have a crying responsibility before God right here in Canada. The missionary need in Canada presents to all real Baptists an opportunity to demonstrate if they are prepared to put in practice what they profess to believe. —The Gospel Witness.



## "Mourner's Bench"

(Continued from page three) and you will find that prayer has no part in it. Also notice in the above quoted passage from Romans that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to the individual that "believeth," not "prayeth."

10. To teach the sinner to pray for salvation is to divert the sinner's faith from the proper Object. Christ alone is the Object of saving faith. (The faith does not save, but the Object of faith saves). All faith that has as its object anything other than Christ ALONE, is in vain. It will not save. The only means by which an

Rev. Saul Paul  
Independent Missionary  
Corinth, Greece  
Dear Mr. Paul:

We recently received an application from you for service UNDER our Board.

It is our policy to be as frank and open-minded as possible with all our applicants. We have made an exhaustive survey in your case. To be plain, we are surprised that you have been able to "pass" as a bona-fide missionary.

We are told that you are afflicted with severe eye trouble. This is certain to be an insuperable handicap to an effective ministry. Our Board requires 20-20 vision.

At Antioch, we learn you opposed Dr. Simon Peter, an esteemed denominational secretary, and actually rebuked him publicly. You stirred up so much trouble at Antioch that a special Board meeting had to be convened in Jerusalem. We cannot condone such actions.

## STRANGE MISSIONARY PRACTICES

Do you think it seemly for a missionary to do part-time work? We hear that you are making tents on the side. In a letter to the church at Philippi you admitted that they were the only church supporting you. We wonder, why?

Is it true that you have a jail record? Certain brethren report that you did two years at Ceasarea and was imprisoned in Rome.

You made so much trouble for the businessmen at Ephesus that they refer to you as "the man who turned the world upside down." Sensationalism has no place in missions. We also deplore the lurid "over-the-wall-in-a-basket" episode at Damascus.

We are appalled at your obvious lack of conciliatory behaviour. Diplomatic men are not stoned and dragged out of the city gate, or assaulted by furious mobs. Have you ever suspected that gentler words might gain you more friends? I enclose a copy of Darius Carnegus' book, "HOW TO WIN JEWS AND INFLUENCE GREEKS."

In one of your letters you refer to yourself as "Paul the aged." Our new mission policies do not envisage a surplus of superannuated recipients.

## ANOTHER WILD DREAMER

We understand you are given to fantasies and dreams. At Troas you saw "a man of Macedonia" and at another time "were caught up into the third heaven," and even claimed "the Lord stood by you." We reckon that more realistic and practical minds are needed in the task of world evangelism.

You have caused much trouble everywhere you have gone. You opposed the honourable women at Berea and the leaders of your own nationality at Jerusalem. If a man cannot get along with his own people, how can he serve foreigners?

We learn that you are a snake-handler. At Malta you picked up a poisonous serpent which is said to have bitten you but you did not suffer harm. Tsk! Tsk!

You admit while you were serving time at Rome, "all forsook you." Good men are not left friendless. Three fine brothers, by name of Diotrophes, Demas, and Alexander the coppersmith, have notarized affidavits to the effect that it is impossible for them to cooperate with either you

individual who prays for salvation can know that he is saved, is by feeling. If he feels that his prayers have been answered, then he believes that he is saved. This is nothing more than faith in feeling. When the feeling dies or passes away, faith dies. This is the reason that there are so many "backsliders" among the folk who believe in prayer for salvation. They go to a so-called "altar" and pray and get some emotional feeling, and thereby think that they are saved. But when the feeling passes away, the individuals conclude that they are "backsliders" so that they are lost again. Certainly this is logical, for faith can be no stronger than the object of faith. Thus when feeling dies, faith dies. Saving faith has as its object, Jesus Christ. And that faith never dies because Christ the Almighty One lives forever. For this reason, we should direct the sinner's faith to Christ and not to prayer.

The doctrine of prayer for salvation exalts "feelings" and "experiences" above the all-sufficient Christ as the Object of faith.

11. Faith must be produced, and the Bible teaches that "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17). And the character of the object of faith always determines the proportion of faith that one has. Thus one must hear about the object of faith before faith

can be produced in the individual toward the object. The only object of faith that prayer offers to an individual is the object of feeling. But the Word of God offers as the object of faith, Jesus Christ. Faith in Jesus Christ is produced by hearing of Him, not by praying.

12. If by prayer the sinner can get God to forgive his sins, then the death of Christ was a mistake. If God will by-pass the sins of one sinner who prays, then certainly He will by-pass the sins of all who pray. And if God does so, why did Christ die? If it is in keeping with the nature of God to let sin go unpunished, then the death of Christ was certainly a mistake. The Bible teaches that Christ died to suffer the penalty for the sins of all those who shall be saved. So certainly then, if God lets a man off without punishing his sins because of his praying, there was no need for Christ's dying in the first place.

13. Many teach that repentance is closely connected with prayer for the forgiveness of sins. But this is entirely unscriptural, as repentance is wrought in an individual by the Word and Spirit of God, revealing to him his exceeding sinfulness, causing him to have a complete change of mind toward sin, himself, and Jesus Christ. Repentance is the work of the Spirit of God, and

or your program.

## PAUL A TROUBLE MAKER

We know that you had a bitter quarrel with a fellow missionary named Barnabas. Harsh words do not further God's work.

You have written many letters to churches where you formerly have been pastor. In one of these letters you accused a church member of living with his father's wife, and you caused the whole church to feel badly and the poor fellow was expelled.

You spend too much time talking about "the second coming of Christ." Your letters to the people at Thessalonica were almost entirely devoted to this theme. Put first things first.

Your ministry has been far too flighty to be successful. First Asia Minor, then Macedonia, then Greece, then Italy, and now you are talking about a wild goose chase into Spain. Consecration is more important than dissipation of one's powers. You cannot win the whole world by yourself. You are just one little Paul.

In a recent sermon you said, "God forbid that I should glory in anything save the cross of Christ." It seems to us that you also ought to glory in our heritage, our denominational program, the unified budget, and the World Federation of Churches.

## PAUL SHOULD GET MARRIED AND TALK LESS

Your sermons are much too long for the time. At one time you talked until after midnight, and a young man was so sleepy that he fell out of a window and broke his neck. Nobody is saved after the first twenty minutes. "Stand up, speak up, and then shut up," is our advice.

Dr. Luke reports that you are a thin little bald man, frequently sick, and always so agitated over your churches that you sleep poorly. He reports that you pad around the house praying half the night. A healthy mind in a robust body is our ideal for all applicants. A good night's sleep will give you zest and zip so that you wake up full of "zing."

We find it best to send only married men into the field. We deplore your policy of persistent celibacy. Simon Magus has set up a matrimonial bureau at Samaria where the names of some very fine widows are available.

## FIGHTS WITH ANIMALS AND MEN

You wrote recently to Timothy that "you had fought a good fight." Fighting is hardly a recommendation for a missionary. No fight is a good fight. Jesus came to bring peace. You boast that "I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus." What on earth do you mean?

It hurts me to tell you this, Brother Paul, but in all of my twenty-five years of experience, I have never met a man so opposite to the requirements of our Foreign Mission Board. If we accept you we would break every rule of modern missionary practice.

Most sincerely yours,

J. FLAVIOUS FLUFFYHEAD,  
Secretary,  
Foreign Mission Board.

## Refutations Of Perverted Scriptures

There are a few Scriptures that the salvation-by-prayer advocates have perverted and which need to be clarified.

1. The Publican's Prayer. "And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me a sinner."—Luke 18:13.

The chief difficulty here is the mistranslation of the King James version. The proper translation is as follows: "Be thou propitiated to me the sinner by the sacrifice." (A. H. Strong. Also see margin of the Revised Version, 1884). So then we see that the publican was not praying to God for the forgiveness of sins, but was by faith looking to the sacrifice on the altar (typical of Christ) for the remission of sins. (Romans 3:26). This is no comfort to the "altar" crowd because they have no sacrifice on their so-called altars.

2. The Thief On The Cross. "And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom."—Luke 23:42.

This has been offered as proof that lost sinners have to pray to be saved. But a careful study of verses 39-43 reveals that this thief

had it revealed in his heart already that Jesus was the Christ. His request of the Lord proves this, for he calls Jesus, "Lord." So, evidently he was a saved man, for I Corinthians 12:3 says: "No man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Spirit." Some might call Him "Lord" hypocritically, but only the spiritually ignorant would say that this thief was a hypocrite.

3. "Calling On the Name Of the Lord." "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."—Romans 10:13.

This passage has been offered to prove that one must pray in order to be saved. But the folly is seen when we read the very next verse of this chapter. It says: "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

God has never accepted any man's prayer until first of all a sacrifice has been offered for that man's sins. And God accepts no one's prayers today until first of all the sacrifice of Christ has by faith been received. Faith must be in the Sacrifice before God hears those who call upon His name. Otherwise, if God answered prayer, He would be answering the prayer of a man who had rejected Jesus Christ as the Sacrifice for sin. The worship of Cain and Abel (Gen. 4) proves that God does not accept a sinner, regardless of his prayers or works, until he has brought a sacrifice for sin. So the scriptural order is faith in Christ first (that's salvation), and all other acts of worship (including prayer) come afterward.

## CONCLUSION

History has always been a solid supporter of the Bible. And in the case of the mourner's bench, history again has proven to be a handmaid to God's Word. If the Bible does not teach such a thing as an altar of prayer or a mourner's bench for sinners, then certainly it must have started with someone other than God. Read carefully the following quotations which give us the facts as to the history of such practices:

The question, "What is the origin of the mourner's bench?" was submitted to the National Conference of Jews and Christians, in New York City. They replied:

"The origin of the mourner's bench is obscure. It seems that William P. Chandler, M. D., invited seekers of a Christian experience to come forward to the chancel as early as 1799. In the great camp meeting that began in the nineteenth century, exhorters walked through the congregation and urged people to fall on their knees where they were. The mourner's bench was a distinctive feature of the meetings conducted by Charles G. Finney in the fourth and fifth decades of the nineteenth century. In the old Methodist church at the head of the river in New Jersey, down near New Republic, I remember to have seen an old mourner's bench, as it was used there in the early days. This building goes back to 1780. Whether the mourner's bench is that old cannot be said."

"The mourner's bench had its beginning in 1794, and is at least 1700 years too young to be the New Testament way of leading lost sinners to Christ."—David Burris.

"The 'mourner's bench' and its 'anxious seat' were terms that came into use in America in the early part of the nineteenth century, at camp meetings and other revival services."—(James R. Joy, secretary of the Methodist Historical Society, New York City).

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who may have been (Continued on page eight)



## "The Lies Of The Bible"

(Continued from Page Two)

truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." —John 8:44.

Now the first time that the father of lies ever lied to a human being here in this world was in Genesis 3:4, and in doing so, he denied the Word of God. God had said that if they ate of the fruit of the tree that was forbidden unto them, they would die. The Devil, in contrast, said, "Ye shall not surely die."

You can see then that the very first thing that the Devil lied about was about the Word of God. He denied God's Word, and from that time to this, the Devil has been working at the task of denying and belittling the authority of Almighty God.

You will notice that when God spoke to Adam and Eve concerning the forbidden fruit, He said, "Ye shall not eat of it," but the Devil said, "Ye shall not surely die." From this you can see that the Devil made it appear that it wasn't too bad to sin. He was belittling the Word of God and he was denying the authority of the Word of God, and he made it appear that it wasn't too bad for a person to sin; yet, beloved, over and over again we read in the Word of God that as a result of this sin, the whole human family died spiritually. Listen:

"Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, IT SHALL DIE." —Ezek. 18:4.

"For the WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." —Rom. 6:23.

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and DEATH BY SIN; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." —Rom. 5:12.

I say then, beloved, as a result of this first sin in the Bible — as a result of the first lie that was ever told in all this world, all the sin that we know about today, and all the death, the troubles, and the heartaches have come — all of this has come from the first lie that was ever told — the lie of Satan.

### II

#### THE LIE OF THE FOOL.

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good." —Psa. 14:1.

If you will notice, this lie comes not from his head, because he had no reason for saying it. It comes not as a result of his intellect, because it is not an intellectual statement. Rather, beloved, it comes from his heart — just because he wanted to say it. Thus he said, "There is no God." This was the lie of a fool.

If you will notice round about, you can see in creation abundant evidence of Almighty God. It looks like anybody ought to be able to see the handiwork of God

in nature. In fact, you ought not take one step outside without being able to look up into the skies and see God's handiwork there. As you look out upon His creation — as you hear the birds sing, and as you see the beauties from His creative hand, you ought to be able to see that there is a God, and that God has manifested Himself in His creation.

I say then, beloved, when a man would declare that there is no God, such an individual is a fool, and that fool lies because he is denying all that appears so far as creation is concerned.

Let's consider it from the standpoint of intuition. I don't care who the individual is, he just naturally and intuitively feels that there must be a God.

Helen Keller was born blind, deaf, and dumb. She couldn't see; she couldn't hear; she couldn't speak. One day after Helen Keller was of age and had learned the sign language to the extent that she could very efficiently and proficiently converse in the sign language, someone asked her relative to God, if she knew anything about the person that we know as God. Even though Helen Keller was blind and deaf and dumb, she said, "From the time that I was a little girl, I have always known that there was such a being, but I didn't know how to express myself concerning Him."

I say, beloved, it is just an intuitive feeling within everyone of us, that there has to be a God, and for a man to say that there is no God — for an individual whom God calls a fool to say that — he is just literally denying not only what he sees of God in creation, not only what he reads in the Bible relative to God, but he is denying even the intuitive feeling that exists remotely in the heart of every human being.

### III

#### THE LIE OF THE JEWS.

"Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself? Jesus answered, If I honor myself, my honor is nothing: it is my Father that honoreth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God: Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by." —John 8:53-59.

If you will study these verses carefully, you will notice that these Jews were saying that Jesus Christ was not the Divine Son of God. Jesus said to them, "If I were to agree with you, I would be a liar like unto you."

There are plenty of folk who lie from the pulpit. There are plenty of individuals who stand before a congregation, even on this Lord's Day, to tell you that Christ is not the Son of God. Beloved, the man who says that Jesus Christ is not the Divine Son of God is telling a lie just like these Jews did in the day of Jesus Christ.

In Chicago, there is a preacher by the name of Preston Bradley. Sometime ago, a man wrote to him and asked him if he believed in the virgin birth and the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. When Preston Bradley replied, he said that Jesus Christ was only a man like every other man, and that so far as the virgin birth and the deity were concerned, they were the mumps and the measles of religion. He said that a child has those diseases and gets over them and lays them aside as he grows to maturity, and so far as he was concerned, the deity and the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ were the mumps and the measles

of religion, and that when you grew a little, you would lay those things completely aside.

Beloved, I say to you that Preston Bradley is a liar in the light of this text of Scripture, for the Lord Jesus looked these Jews in the face and said, "If I were to agree with you that I am not the Son of God, then I would be a liar like unto you."

Sometime ago I read about a preacher in another city who had taken the position that since he had made a very careful research of the character of Jesus, he was preaching to demolish all the supernatural claims of the Son of God. He said that Jesus Christ was not God in the flesh, that He was not divine, that He was not virgin born, that His blood would not atone for sin, and that when He died and was buried, that He stayed in the grave, and furthermore, that there was nothing to the miracles of Jesus, but that all of the miracles could be explained on a natural basis. Beloved, I remember reading very carefully a number of the articles that that man prepared, and when I finished reading them, I came back to this fact, that in the light of the Word of God, that man was lying. It was the same old lie that these Jews told a long time ago when they tried to make out that Jesus Christ was not the Son of God.

In the providence of God, we print for several Jewish individuals in our printing shop. I know several of them very intimately, and of recent date when I was talking to such an individual he said that he considered Jesus Christ was a good man, but for anyone to say that Jesus Christ was God in the flesh, was just pure assumption. Beloved, I told that individual about this text of Scripture, how that Jesus said, "If I were to agree with you, I would be a liar like unto you."

I say then, as the Devil lied in the Garden of Eden, and as the fool lied when he said, "There is no God," so the Jews lied when they said that Jesus Christ was not the Son of God walking here as God incarnate on this earth.

## GIRDLING THE GLOBE



"THIS GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM WILL BE PREACHED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE WORLD, AS A TESTIMONY TO ALL NATIONS." MATT. 24:14 (RSV)

### IV

#### THE LIE OF A SAINT.

"But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart TO LIE to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?" —Acts 5:3.

I believe with all my heart that Ananias and Sapphira were saved people. It is true that they lied. It is true that they sold their property and that they brought a part of the price of that property and laid it down at the apostles' feet. If you will notice in the preceding chapter, a good man within the church had done this very thing, and when this good man, Barnabas, sold his property and brought the money and laid it down before the apostles, naturally everybody began to talk about Barnabas as to what a good man that he was. When Ananias and Sapphira heard the praise and saw the reaction of the people toward Barnabas, I think that the Devil just naturally got within them and they wanted some of that same praise on the part of the people. Therefore, they sold their property and brought a part of the price of the land and laid it down at the same place that Barnabas did — at the feet of the apostles. The only difference was that they said, "This is what we sold the land for," whereas in reality, it was only a portion of what they had received for their property.

Notice, beloved, they laid the money down at the apostles' feet, with God's eye looking down directly upon them, and they lied concerning the price of the land. I say concerning these two individuals that they honored the feet of the apostles more than they honored and respected the eye of Almighty God, and thus they lied relative to the price of their land. Beloved, when they did so, this lie was the lie, I think, of a saint. I couldn't prove that Ananias and Sapphira were saved, but I think that all indications would lead us to believe that they were saved people who did wrong and lied to the Holy Spirit of God. If they were genuinely saved people — and I think they were, then this shows us the

possibility of sin on the part of every believer.

If you talk with a lot of people, you will find that they will tell you that there is no such thing as sin within their lives. They will tell you that they are absolutely perfect, and living above sin. I can remember when I was just a boy, before I was saved and before God called me to preach, a man who lived a short distance from me, who claimed that he lived above sin. I have seen that man steal time and time again, but whenever he would stand up in church to testify, he always came over the fact that he was perfect, and that he was living definitely and positively above sin.

Listen, beloved, I am saying to you, that while there are individuals who say that they are living above sin, this experience on the part of Ananias and Sapphira would certainly lead us to believe, and to show us, the possibility of sin on the part of every believer within this world.

### V

#### THE LIES OF SEVERAL SINNERS.

First, there is the lie of Cain. We find that Cain had murdered his brother Abel, and when God would hold inquisition with Cain and asked him what he had done with his brother, it was then that Cain, arrogantly and even blasphemously, looked up into the face of God and said:

"I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?" —Gen. 4:9.

Notice that Cain lied relative to His brother when he said, "I don't know where he is."

Let's notice the lie of another sinner by the name of Sarah. Do you remember Sarah of the Old Testament how that one day when she and her husband were entertaining angels from Heaven, the angels said that Sarah was going to have a baby? Sarah was then an old woman — well

(Continued on page eight)

## A SYSTEMATIC STUDY OF BIBLE DOCTRINE

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The chains of habit are generally too small to be felt until they are too strong to be broken.

## Independency

(Continued from page one)

turies didn't belong to anything. Associations and Conventions are of very modern origin. They were started as mediums of co-operation, and were at first subservient to the churches. As such they served a good purpose. But there is always a tendency for a governing ecclesiasticism to arise, and there are signs of this among Baptists. A Co-operative Program has been devised, and this has come to be regarded by some as a thing inspired. The Program and its details is of course not worked out by the churches—it is handed down. Suppose a church feels led of God to work that is not involved in the Program? Shall that church be branded as disloyal? Certainly no such Program would fit all the needs of all the churches. If churches are free and independent, then they have the right to determine the extent to which they wish to co-operate with all other groups. When co-operation is not free and voluntary—when it is forced, then it becomes CO-ERCION. Baptist churches in the days of Paul co-operated but they did so voluntarily. Read 2 Cor. 8:1-5 and 12:15.

No, a Baptist church does not belong to a denomination in the sense of being owned by it. It does not belong to any general group in that sense. A church belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ who bought it with His blood, and its orders should come from Him. Co-operation with other churches is a fine thing, but it should be co-operation and not co-ercion. Churches have a right to designate their funds. If there are things included in the denominational Program that they do not believe in, then they have a right to withhold support from those things, and to support the things they believe in. Some are impatient and have the attitude, "You must swallow the Program whole, or else get out!" That spirit is resulting in independent Baptist churches, and in the growth of "Bible Baptists" and other Baptist groups.

### Things To Keep In Mind

Several things need to be remembered and kept constantly in mind as regards Baptist churches:

1.—Each church is separate and distinct and self-governing. For instance the church at Antioch sent out missionaries without asking anybody. (See Acts 13:1-3). A church would be branded as highly "disloyal" for doing this today. ("Disloyal" to whom?)

2.—All general Baptist bodies should be the servants of the churches, and not the other way around. The question is, ARE THEY?

3.—Unless there is a complete reversal of the Baptist theory of centuries, there can be no general "Church" that bears rule over individual churches.

4.—Each individual church has the right to decide what general Baptist groups it shall affiliate with, and the measure of co-operation it will render. Whether it is a genuine Baptist church or not does not depend upon methods of co-operation, but upon its doctrinal soundness. By that we mean its loyal adherence to the great doctrines that have always distinguished Baptist churches. Remember that there is no Bible command that relates to specific modes and means of general co-operation, for the agencies of today did not exist until just a few years ago.



### "The Lies Of The Bible"

(Continued from page seven) up toward ninety years of age. It was, of course, a physiological and a biological impossibility for

her to bear a child, and when Sarah heard the angel say that she was going to bear a child, Sarah laughed and made fun of it. Then the angel said, "Why did Sarah laugh?" and Sarah said: "I laughed not."—Gen. 18:15.

Notice, beloved, she doubted the promise of God that she was to have a baby, and then when the angel asked her why she doubted and why she laughed, she deliberately lied by saying, "I laughed not."

Let's notice again another lie. Do you remember Jacob's sons? Do you remember that those sons took Joseph and stripped his coat of many colors from him, and then sold him to the Ishmaelites, who in turn carried him down into Egypt and sold him to the Egyptians? Do you remember what it was that those sons of Jacob did with Joseph's coat? Beloved, they took that coat of many colors and dipped it in the blood of a kid and brought it in and laid it before their nearly-blind father, Jacob. Listen:

"And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood; and they sent the coat of many colors, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no."—Gen. 37:31,32.

Notice that this is talking about Jacob's sons. They said to their father, "We have found this coat. We don't know whether it is Joseph's coat or not. We would like for you to identify it."

You can see, beloved, that they lied in at least two different ways. In the first place, they hadn't found the coat, but rather, they had taken it off Joseph's back, and secondly, they lied relative to their sins.

Now, beloved, if you will look at Cain who lied relative to his brother Abel, if you will look at Sarah who lied relative to her sin of doubt, and if you will look at the sons of Jacob who lied relative to their sin in the disposal and the selling of their brother Joseph, you can come face to face with this fact, that human nature is a depraved lot in every particular. When I read concerning the sins of each of these, I am persuaded to believe that human nature is surely a depraved lot. Can you imagine a man murdering his own brother and then looking up into the face of God and saying, "I don't know where he is?" Can you imagine a woman doubting a promise that God made and then stand in the very presence of God Almighty's angel and say, "I didn't doubt; I didn't laugh!" Can you imagine boys taking their own brother and selling him into slavery and then lying about his coat and deceiving their old nearly-blind father? Can you imagine how these individuals did what they did? I say unto you, beloved, these lies on the part of these sinners show us the depravity of human hearts.

A short time ago, a man came into my printing shop and said, "Brother Gilpin, the Lord saved me a few days ago and I have a confession I want to make." He said, "Do you remember about a year ago when I came in with such-and-such an individual and asked you to do some printing for us?" I said, "Yes, I remember." He said, "Do you remember when you gave us a price on the printing that I told you that we had already been to two other printing shops and both of them were cheaper than you were?" I said, "Yes, I remember." He said, "Do you remember that when we did that, I asked you if you wouldn't make your price as low as theirs, that we wanted to turn the business to you?" I said, "Yes, I recall." He said, "Well, I came back in today to tell you that the Lord has saved me and has forgiven me of my sins, and to tell you that I deliberately lied to you—that we had gone to two other printing shops, but that their prices were considerably higher than yours, and that we were determined that we were not going to spend any more money on the project than what we did. Therefore, we made it up between

ourselves to tell you the lie that we did, in order to get the price down to the place where we wanted it."

Well, beloved, if that were the only time such as that had happened in my life, I might have been alarmed. I might have thought that this one fellow alone was in a bad way. But, beloved, I have seen things like that happen so many, many times in life that I come back to the fact, that human nature is certainly depraved in every particular.

## VI

### THE LIE AS TO DUTY.

Do you remember King Saul in the Old Testament? The Word of God tells us how that one day King Saul was given a task, and that task was to slay the Amalekites. We read:

"And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the Lord: I have performed the commandment of the Lord."—I Sam. 15:13.

Saul was God's king, anointed of God, and God gave him a task of slaying the Amalekites. He went out to battle but when he came back, he had spared the life of King Agag, king of Amalekites. Also, he had spared the best of the sheep and the best of the cattle and brought them home. Now he comes into the presence of Samuel and said, "I have performed the commandment of the Lord." Just about that time a cow bawled and a sheep bleated, and Samuel said, "What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?" Saul said, "The people—they have brought back the best of the sheep and the best of the cattle for sacrificial purposes." God had said to slay them all, but Saul blamed the people for what he had done, thus lying relative to his duty. Then it was that Samuel said, "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."

Beloved, I wonder if God has some duty for you, and yet you haven't done what God wants you to do. I wonder if God has a duty laid out for you and yet you haven't performed that duty, or maybe you have lied about it in the sight of God.

Listen, my brother, my sister, you have a duty relative to going to church. You have a duty relative to the service of the Lord. You have a duty relative to your tithes and offerings. You have a duty relative to the reading of the Word of God and your prayer life. I wonder if you, like Saul, would look up into the face of God and lie about your duty when you fail to do it.

## VII

### THE LIE OF JACOB.

Jacob's mother was partial to Jacob, but Jacob's father was partial to Jacob's brother, Esau. One day, Isaac, the father, said to Esau, "I wish you would go out into the field and kill a venison and make me savoury meat such as my soul loveth, and I will give you the blessing before I die. When Esau went to the field to kill the venison, Jacob's mother said to Jacob, "You go out and kill a goat and bring it to me and we will deceive your old father and you will get the blessing that he is going to give to Esau." Immediately, Jacob killed a goat and brought it to his mother to prepare, and then he went into the presence of his father. Listen:

"And Jacob said unto his father, I am Esau thy firstborn; I have done according as thou badest me: arise, I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me."—Gen. 27:19.

Notice that Jacob said, "I am Esau thy firstborn," which was the first lie. Then he said, "I have done according as thou badest me," which was the second lie. Then he lied to his father the third time, when he said, "Arise, I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison." Beloved, it wasn't venison at all; it was goat meat.

Then the father said to Jacob, "How is it that thou hast found it so quickly, my son?" and Jacob said, "Because the Lord thy God

brought it to me." Notice, Jacob had told three lies that were big lies in themselves, but now he brings God into it and actually makes God a part of the fourth lie, when he said, "Because the Lord thy God brought it to me."

Now, beloved, do you think that a man like that could ever be of any value or of any service to Almighty God? Do you think that a man that would lie in that manner could ever be of any service to God? Let's notice. Years go by and I see Jacob as an old man, who now has become a prince with God. I see this man who lied to his father and who blasphemously made God a part of his lie—I see him now as the grace of God triumphs in his life, as he stands in the presence of King Pharaoh of Egypt and says:

"The days of the years of my pilgrimage are a hundred and thirty years: few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage."—Gen. 46:9.

As Jacob stands in the presence of Pharaoh, he realizes that life isn't just what you get out of it, but rather, that life is a pilgrimage. Then Jacob blesses Pharaoh. What a scene, as Jacob prays in the palace of Pharaoh! What a scene as the grace of God ultimately and finally triumphs within his life!

Beloved, as God's grace thus triumphed in Jacob's life, so can God's grace take any individual, regardless of how big a liar he may be, and irrespective of what his sin may be, and God's grace can change him, and God's grace can make a prince out of him.

## CONCLUSION

Maybe there is someone here for whom this message is appropriate. Maybe there is someone here who just needs what I have said to you. Maybe lying isn't your sin. Maybe your besetting sin is something else. Beloved, it doesn't make any difference what your sin is, the grace of God is able to save, and make you over, and make you a child of God.

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."—Isa. 1:18.

Thank God, the worst sin in your life can be forgiven. God's grace can save you despite the sin of your life. Sinner friend, won't you look up to Him and trust Him, and may God look down upon you in mercy and grace, and may He save your soul for Jesus' sake.

May God bless you!



### "Mourner's Bench"

(Continued from Page Six) helped by this tract. If you find error with any of the foregoing arguments, write to me pointing them out.

May God deal graciously with those who read this tract, revealing to all its truth, if it so please Him.



### I Should Like To Know

(Continued from Page One) deliberation. The baptism of this church after its act of infidelity is alien.

A decision involving anything so far reaching as receiving alien baptism should be settled by the church in a specially called conference for that purpose and such deliberation should be had only after all members have officially been notified about the same. If after such steps are taken, the local church approves alien baptism, then by its own decision it becomes apostate and its subsequent acts of baptism would be reckoned alien by the Scriptures.

4. A Baptist church organized under Pendleton's Baptist Manual and for ten years did not receive alien baptism, but called a pastor that in his meetings got

the church to receive some alien baptism, and many of the members did not believe in, and did not vote for or against it. While pastor, he baptized some by the authority of the church. Is that alien baptism?

Yes, if there was a quorum present. The members present who failed to register a vote against receiving the brethren offering themselves on alien baptism should have remembered two things: First, according to parliamentary practice, an unregistered vote is reckoned an affirmative vote, and second, it takes but one vote to keep an applicant out of the church. Even though the protestors had been in the minority among those present, just one negative vote would have saved the church from such a sin. To secure church membership requires unanimous vote, else the fellowship of the church could be broken by the act of receiving a member holding to heresy. In every other vote in a Baptist church a majority rules.

The above named church is under obligation to acknowledge its error and ask God's forgiveness, and then demand that the parties received on their alien baptism be rebaptized by the authority of the local church body. Until the church acknowledges its errors and makes right its wrong, we can but conclude that it has openly accepted heresy, and having done so, has become apostate. The baptism of an apostate Baptist church is alien. See the Holy Spirit's instruction by Paul, Eph. 4:4-6. We cannot escape the import of "one Lord, one faith, and one baptism."

5. This church gets rid of the pastor and calls another who opposes reception of alien immersion; he baptized members by the authority of that church. Is baptism alien because of the act of the church under the loose pastor receiving alien baptism?

Yes, it is alien. A church which compromises the faith can't administer Scriptural baptism until it has squared itself with the one faith. The faithful pastor ought to ask his church to clean its skirts before proceeding with acts of baptism.

6. It takes the vote of the church to receive members on alien immersion, but as five or seven generally constitute a quorum to receive members, and just a quorum on alien baptism and there are twenty-five or thirty not present, does this make it so that the church's baptism is alien?

Yes, if the local church officially acknowledges a certain number as constituting a quorum, then that number can officially by vote bind the church. The absent ones, the twenty-five or thirty, from the conference were guilty of the sin of omission—they should have been there and the quorum group was guilty of sin of commission—they should not have so voted. A church so guilty has but one recourse, if it would be faithful. The absent group should acknowledge its remissness, and the second group should apologize for its sin. If members of the quorum won't acknowledge their sin, then let them be excluded for heresy.

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