

MISSIONARY PREMILLENNIAL BIBLICAL BAPTISTIC

The Baptist Examiner

Paid Circulation In All States And In Many Foreign Countries

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

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ALIEN IMMERSION

LEE RECTOR
(Now With His Lord)

A friend of the truth sent a number of questions requesting answers to answer them. Here goes:

1. "What constitutes alien baptism?"

Answer: Alien baptism is an act, mis-called baptism, administered by an apostate, or unfaithful church. It is an act that does not conform to the divine requirements controlling the ordinance. Church authority and no church has authority to baptize that is not of, and like, the first church at Jerusalem. Pseudo and unfaithful Baptist Churches cannot administer Scriptural baptism.

Scriptural baptism is an act of a New Testament church in which the believer in Christ Jesus is buried in water by the authority of the local church in order to show forth in symbol the Lord's death, burial and resurrection. In this divine order,

we have: Proper authority, a New Testament Church; proper subject, a believer in Christ Jesus; proper mode, immersion or burial in water; proper motive, a desire to show forth in an act the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, Matt. 28:19-20 and Rom. 6:4.

2. "If a Missionary Baptist Church received a Free-Will Baptist on his immersion, is that alien baptism?"

Answer: No, since the act of receiving a member is not an act of baptism. The Missionary Baptist Church in question was not the baptizer of the Free-Will Baptist. The act, however, of receiving such a member does constitute a sanction of alien baptism, and as a consequence, the next act of baptism by such a Missionary Baptist Church would be alien baptism since by its own sanction of unsanctified baptism, it becomes a party to heresy, and thus loses its authority to baptize.

3. "If so, does the baptism administered by the Missionary Baptist Church before or after reception of Free-wills become alien baptism?"

Answer: The baptism of this church before its act of infidelity is not made alien by this church's wrong act. The action of a hitherto faithful church cannot be retroactive, or cannot vitiate the faithful acts of the body up to the time of its first act of infidelity. A church is bound by its own act and these acts pre-suppose prayerful and Scriptural 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 (Continued on page 2, column 1)

Did Judas Iscariot Fall From God's Saving Grace?

By ROY MASON
Aripeka, Florida

Some cite Judas as an example of a man who fell from grace. Some think that he was never before he committed suicide. Some think that he was never saved and that he went on to torment. What is the truth about the matter?

Did He Fall From Grace?

Some get the idea from Acts



Eld. Roy Mason

1:25 which says that "Judas by transgression fell." But Judas did not fall from grace for the following reasons:

There is no such thing possible as falling from grace, in the sense of being saved and losing salvation. The expression "ye are fallen from grace" in the writings of Paul, has reference to leaving the principle of grace for that of Law-keeping, as the whole passage fully makes clear. Several considerations make falling from grace impossible.

Salvation is a gift. If by human failure, salvation is taken away then it can't be a gift, but of works.

Election. Since people are chosen to salvation in eternity, then to fall from grace would nullify God's choice.

The term, eternal life, is not consistent with falling from grace. If one can lose it — it is not eternal.

Because Judas never had any grace to fall from. Jesus called Judas a devil in John 6:70 long before the betrayal took place. The word here used is not "demon" but devil. Judas is the only one except Satan to have that term applied to him in all the Bible. Also Jesus calls Judas the "son of perdition" before the betrayal. (See John 17:12).

Because Judas was a thief all along. Remember the instance where he objected to Mary's breaking of the alabaster box, and what was said of him?

Judas was simply one of the thousands who have lived, who for a time identified themselves with the followers of Christ, but (Continued on page 2, column 4)

Attention! Free-Willers!

By FERRELL KENNEDY
Grafton, Ohio

This article is directed primarily to those who cling to the doctrine of the free will of man in salvation. It is designed to cause such to "search the Scriptures, to compare their beliefs with that which is written in the infallible Word of God, to prove whether or not your position can be substantiated by a "thus saith the Lord." Let us first ask a few pertinent questions, then, to yourselves, answer the questions honestly, and without bias. Remember, this is not for our amusement, but for your good. If your position is justified, you will then be more fully established. If your position is proven wrong, then as sincere seekers of truth, surely you will be thankful that the truth has been revealed. You have nothing to lose.

Do you believe that our God is a Most High God? Of course you do. But if we believe that He must wait on our will, on our willingness before He can save us, then His ability to save is dependent on our will. If that be the case, God's will should not be supreme. Rather, our will would be exalted to a place of supremacy above the will of God. Do you believe that? Wouldn't that be blasphemy? Of course it would. But remember, that is your position, not ours.

Do you believe that God knew exactly what He would do from the beginning? Of course you do. "Known unto God are ALL

HIS WORKS from the beginning of the world." Acts 15:18. Do you believe that your salvation was a part of His works? I'm sure you do, for "salvation is of the Lord." Jonah 2:9. If you believe these Scriptures, can you explain how your will influenced God thousands of years before you were born?

Do you believe that you could come to Christ of your own will? Listen. "NO MAN CAN COME TO ME except the FATHER WHICH HATH SENT ME DRAW HIM." John 6:44. Where, in this statement is the will of man a factor?

Did you choose Christ? "Ye have not chosen me, but I HAVE CHOSEN YOU." John 15:6. Was this the will of man, or the will of God?

When were you chosen unto salvation? "According as He hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love." Eph. 1:4. Where were you, when this choosing occurred? What part did the will of man play in the choosing? There was no man

present, neither was there even a world. Did He choose you because He knew that eventually you would will to be holy and blameless? No, you became holy and blameless because He decreed it, because He chose you and predestinated you to be holy and blameless. If you doubt this, listen. "Having predestinated us UNTO THE ADOPTION OF CHILDREN BY JESUS CHRIST TO HIMSELF, ACCORDING TO THE GOOD PLEASURE OF HIS WILL." Eph. 1:5. By whose decree were we predestinated to become His children? And whose will was consulted in the matter? God predestinated us of course. To please whose will? God's will, if these Scriptures be true. Do you believe them? If you do, what about the will of man? Where would the will of man have been found at the

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foundation of the world? Who bends our will to suit His purposes? What causes us to do the will of God? Is it some innate goodness in us that compels us to do His will? "For it is GOD WHICH WORKETH IN YOU. BOTH TO WILL AND TO DO OF HIS GOOD PLEASURE." Phil. 2:13. Do you believe these Scriptures? Of course you do. Then where is the will of man, and what part did it play here?

Did you believe in Christ of your own volition? "For unto you IT IS GIVEN, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake." Phil. 1:29. Now, who gives us the power to believe? Who gives us all good gifts? "Every good and perfect GIFT is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights with Whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17. Do we will to receive gifts, or does God will to give them to us?

Now, study the following Scriptures from Rom. 8. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the

CALLED, ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE. For whom He did FOREKNOW, He also did PRE-DESTINATE TO BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS Son, that he might be the first born among many brethren. Moreover, whom He did predestinate THEM HE ALSO CALLED, and whom He called, THEM HE ALSO JUSTIFIED, AND WHOM HE JUSTIFIED, THEM HE ALSO GLORIFIED." Who called the called? Whose will decreed it? Did you decide to be called, back before the world began? And at the same time, did you decide that you would conform yourself to the image of the Son of God? And did you decide, there, to be justified? And in so doing, did you arrange for your eventual glorification? No, it was all of God. What man was His counselor? Whose will was consulted? Do you believe that somewhere along this chain of events the will of man can alter God's purpose, or break the chain? If the eternal purposes of God can be altered in the slightest degree by the will of man, then our God is not an omnipotent God. Yet the Word says, "The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth." Rev. 19:6.

How do you reconcile the free (Continued on page 2, column 2)

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor John R. Gilpin

"PERISHING THOUGH WARNED"

"He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him." — Ezek. 33:5.

Here is a fellow who sees a body of water in the wintertime. It is frozen over. At least, it is partially frozen. There is a sign on it that says, "Thin ice; stay off," but this individual, desirous of skating, walks out upon that thin ice. He takes no warning of the sign, with the result that the ice breaks, and he pays the penalty thereof.

Here is another individual who sees a small ocean-going vessel that is in dry dock for repair. He desires to make a trip. He starts

out in this boat, though he is warned by the wharf master that the boat is in an unseaworthy condition. The boat sinks, and he goes to his destruction, all because he failed to take heed to the warning.

Here is an individual who is hungry and he sees before him a table loaded with food. He is warned that the food is tainted—that the meat is all in the process of spoilage, but when he sees it, though he is warned, he takes some of that tainted food into his body. The result is excruciating pain and agony, all because he didn't pay attention to the warning — all because he wouldn't

listen when he was warned.

Here is an individual, who is traveling, and who comes to a water hole. There is a sign nearby saying that the water is contaminated, but he is thirsty and despite the sign, he drinks that poisoned water to his own destruction.

Now, beloved, if the individual pays no attention to a sign relative to thin ice, or a sign that would tell him a boat is unseaworthy, or a sign that would tell him the food is tainted, or a sign saying the water is poisoned, and disastrous results come thereby, then surely the same thing is true (Continued on page 3, column 1)

DID YOU
ANSWER
YOUR
EDITOR'S
LETTER
IN THE ISSUE
OF APRIL 10?

GIVES WHERE HE GETS THE MOST BLESSINGS

The enclosed check is a thank you for the Baptist Examiner. The sermons, your beliefs on Christian truths are worthy of every Christian in America's support. As God provides in the days ahead, I am going to give where I get the most blessings — Calvary Baptist Church and The Baptist Examiner.

Cyril W. Auer, Calif.

The Baptist Examiner

The Baptist Paper for the Baptist People.

JOHN R. GILPIN

Editor

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Alien Baptism

(Continued from page one)

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?"

Answer: 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 as 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 error 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 that pastor and calls another who opposes reception of alien immer-

sion, he baptizes members by the authority of that church. Is baptism alien because of the act of the church under the loose pastor receiving some alien baptism?"

Answer: 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?"

Answer: 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 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.

7. "If a church does not habitually practice open communion and the practice of alien baptism, and a large number, a majority, have Scriptural baptism, though there are a few in the church on alien immersion, can they administer Scriptural baptism?"

Answer: It must make clean its own skirts. We have already discussed the order for so doing.

Free-Willers

(Continued from page one)

will doctrine with these Scriptures from Rom. 9. "For He saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is NOT OF HIM THAT WILL-ETH, nor of him that runneth,

HERIN ESTABLISHES A NEW WORK IN ORANGE, TEXAS

Brother Walter L. Herin recently severed his membership from an NABA church in Orange, Texas, moved his membership to the Providence Baptist Church of Henderson, Texas, and has established a mission under the authority of the latter church.

All church services of this new mission will be held at 412 Holly Street, at West Orange, Texas for the time being. Sunday School is being held at 10:00, with preaching services following and also on Sunday night at 7:00.

Brother Herin is an old friend of ours and we thank God most deeply for him and rejoice that God is using him in this respect. We would urge all independent Baptists living within going distance to attend services at this new mission.

Likewise, whenever you have an opportunity to be in the neighborhood of the Providence Baptist Church at Henderson, Texas, be sure to attend there. Elder John Reynolds, pastor of the Providence Church at Henderson is a most unusually gifted man of God and we take pleasure in recommending both him and Brother Herin to our readers.

but OF GOD THAT SHEWETH MERCY. Therefore, hath He mercy on whom HE WILL HAVE MERCY, and WHOM HE WILL, HE HARDENETH." Does this teach the will of man in salvation?

What caused you to love Christ in the first place? Did you just will to do so? "We love Him because HE FIRST LOVED US." I JOHN 4:19. Wasn't this because of God's will, rather than your will? Hasn't it always been God who takes the initiative?

Who chose you and caused you to draw nigh unto God? "Blessed is the man whom Thou chooseth and causest to approach unto Thee?" Ps. 65:4. Does that sound as if God consulted man in the matter?

We could go on indefinitely, but space does not permit. But we have presented you with a sound, Scriptural framework, and if you so desire, you can build well on this framework by more fully searching the Scriptures. Our prayer is that you will do so, that God may receive the glory due His name. Anything for which we take the credit or glory detracts that much from the glory due to God. And what saith the Scriptures? "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor, and power. For Thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure, they are and were created." Rev. 4:11.

In conclusion, we will present portions of the Word for your consideration, praying that you will accept them as the inspired Word of God. "For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that NOT OF YOURSELVES: it is the GIFT OF GOD. NOT OF WORKS, lest any man should boast. For we are HIS WORKMANSHIP, created in Christ Jesus UNTO GOOD WORKS WHICH GOD HATH BEFORE ORDAINED THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM." Eph. 2:8-10.

"But He is in one mind, and who can turn Him? And what His soul desireth, even that He doeth." Job 23:13.

"I know that Thou canst do everything, and that no thought of Thine can be hindered." Job. 42:2.

"But our God is in the heavens; He hath done whatsoever HE HATH PLEASED." Ps. 115:3.

"For the Lord of hosts hath purposed, and who can disannul it? His hand is stretched out and who can turn it back?" Is. 14:27.

"I Should Like to Know"

1. Explain Luke 7:28.

John was preaching the ushering in of the Messiah's kingdom, the kingdom of Heaven at hand. As a prophet there was none greater than John. Jesus being then in the beginning of His ministry was recognized by the world as the least. Yet in reality He was the greatest, because He was the King of the kingdom and the Saviour of the world.

2. Explain Hag. 2:10, 18, 20.

"Four and twentieth day" means the 24th day of the month as the nursery rhyme says: "Four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie" means 24 blackbirds.

3. Explain Matthew 12:40-44.

These Scriptures deal exclusively with reformation and not regeneration; a case of getting religion, cleaning all up, the devil leaving temporarily, and coming back and finding it empty. In salvation the house is not left empty. Notice: "Christ liveth in me."—Gal. 2:20. "To whom God

would make known what riches of the glory of this world among the Gentiles; while Christ in you, the hope of glory."—Col. 1:27. See Romans 8.

4. Is it right to use a Church building for a laureate service when the is preached by an Ar preacher?

Positively not! Baptist buildings are supposed dedicated to the glory of God. An Arminian can glorify God in man who preaches salvation, works, salvation by the water works, or falling grace, can not glorify God; an heretic and God tells refuse the company of such sons. "A man that is a son after the first and second monition, reject."—Titus 3:10. A Baptist Church to allow a building to be thus defamed a heretic means that that is a partaker of the heretic, although God tells us that not to be partakers of other sins.

"Remember the former things of old, for I am God and there is none else. I am God and there is none like me; declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, MY COUNSEL SHALL STAND, I WILL DO ALL MY PLEASURE." Is. 46:9-10. "And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing, and He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth, and none can stay His hand, or say What doest Thou?" Dan. 4:35.

Consider. God is the Potter, we are the clay. Does not the Potter have the power to make one vessel unto honor, and one to dishonor? Before closing, let us give you this thought. God created us in Christ Jesus. Eph. 2. Before He created, He must necessarily have had a will to create. So before we were created in Christ Jesus, God must have willed that creation. God's will must have preceded our creation. Before our creation we could not have possessed a will, for as yet, we were non-existent. How then could a non-existent something have exercised a will in it's creation? Surely, the utter impossibility of this is apparent.

Finally, "unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and HATH MADE US KINGS AND PRIESTS unto God and His Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." Rev. 1:5-6.

Judas Iscariot

(Continued from page one)
were never truly regenerated and born again from above.

Did Judas Die A Saved Man?

Some say so, because of Matt. 27:3 which says that "Judas re-

pented himself." But that not mean "repentance unto God." That doesn't mean evangelism. The Bible tells us that "the sorrow of the world worketh death." That is the sorrow men have when they are CAUGHT — or when a does not turn out as they expected. Lots of people repent in sense.

How do we know that was not saved? How do we know that his repentance was not salvation? By his subsequent Matt. 27:5 tells us that he out and hanged himself. Repentance is not "unto salvation." There is a lot of difference between repentance and salvation.

Then What About Judas?

He was a false professor, morally responsible for his sin. He fit into and fulfilled the prophetic word of God. (See Is. 1:16 and John 17:12).

He acted the scoundrel along in stealing from the treasury.

He loved money better than anything else, probably more when Jesus rebuked him for betraying Mary for breaking the box of precious ointment, and decided there to take the bribe.

He "fell" but he fell from "ministry and apostleship" (Matt. 23:34) rather than from grace.

He proved by his self destruction that he was a lost man, turned from his sin of denial, "wept bitterly." Judas committed suicide — that was the difference.

Judas "went to his own place" (Acts 1:25). We can well believe that to have been a hot place.

Is There A Discrepancy Accounts of Judas' Death?

Some have so charged, but Matt. 27:3-10 with Acts 1:18 and the matter will clear easily.



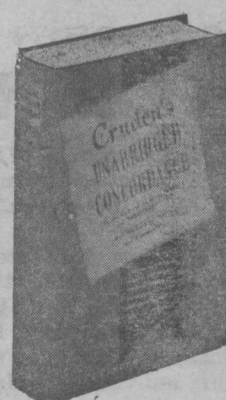
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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
APRIL 17, 1965
PAGE TWO

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
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WAIT TIL YOU HEAR THIS!

"I also want to relay you the invitation of Calvary Baptist Church to spend Labor Day Weekend with them for their Bible Conference. Rooms and meals are all furnished."



Perishing - Warned

(Continued from page one)

spiritually. If a man is warned and yet he pays no attention to the warning that is given to him relative to spiritual affairs, he'll be called upon to pay the consequence of his neglect of those spiritual warnings.

My text says that this individual in Israel heard the trumpet when it blew, but that he took no warning, and as a result, his blood shall be upon him. This morning I'd like to talk to you concerning these spiritual warnings.

I YOU HAVE OFTEN BEEN WARNED.

I'd like to remind you of the fact that many, many times your pastor has given to you a warning. I have warned you so far as

Send The Baptist Examiner To Some Home

in concerned. I have warned you that every one of you are sinners. We read:

"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.

"For ALL HAVE SINNED, and are short of the glory of God." — Rom. 3:23.

"But the scripture hath concluded ALL UNDER SIN, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe." — Gal. 3:22.

"The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are ALL GONE ASIDE, they are altogether become filthy: there is none that doeth good." — Psa. 14:2, 3.

Beloved, you can't read these scriptures without the realization that you stand as a sinner in the sight of Almighty God. You can't read these verses without realiz-

ing that you are a sinner.

Here is an individual who has a disease in his blood, and in the providence of God a child is born of that individual. As a result, that diseased blood is passed on to his child.

Beloved, I am talking to you about something that is more serious than that. I am talking to you about an individual who has a disease, which is sin, in his spiritual blood, and he passes that sin on to his children, and they on to their children, and on down from Adam to us today.

I say to you this morning, I have warned you relative to sin. I have told you, you are a sinner. I have told you the results of sin. I have told you the dire consequences of sin. I have told you what shall come as a result of your sins. I say to you, beloved friends, your pastor has abundantly warned you as to sin.

I have likewise warned you as to the judgment. I am sure that there is a judgment day coming. I am sure that there is a day coming when every individual shall stand before God and give an account of his life, to be judged thereby. Solomon says:

"Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things GOD WILL BRING THEE INTO JUDGMENT." — Eccl. 11:9.

Just go on and live your life any way you want to live it. Ignore God. Live contrary to the precepts of the Bible. Do the things you want to do so far as your flesh is concerned. Sow your wild oats. Plant your sour grapes. Do as your flesh would direct you to do. However, just remember this, there is going to be a judgment day.

Notice again: "For God shall bring every work INTO JUDGMENT, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." — Eccl. 12:14.

Notice that there is a judgment day coming, and every work is going to be brought into the judgment.

Tell me how many times you have sinned in life. You can't. Tell me how many times you have taken the name of God in vain. You can't. Tell me how many times you have committed various sins. You can't. Your flesh would not permit you to recall, or to remember, the number of times that you stand guilty of sin in the sight of God. But remember one thing, God is going to bring every work into judgment. Whether you can recall it or not, and irrespective of whether you can remember the sins of your life, God has a record of every one of them, and all of them are going to come into judgment.

Listen again:

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which HE WILL JUDGE THE WORLD in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him

from the dead." — Acts 17:30, 31.

Notice, God is just winking at sin now. God is just letting each sinner go on his way. God is just letting a sinner do as he pleases. God isn't dealing with you this morning, sinner friend. God isn't in any wise dealing with you today. He is letting you do as you wish. He is winking at your sins. But there is a day of judgment coming when every secret thing and every deed of your life will be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ.

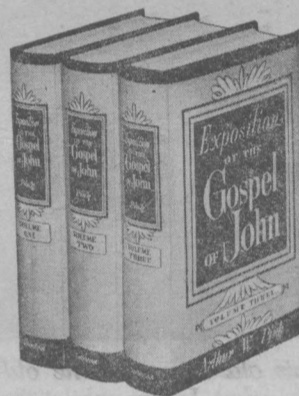
Notice again:

"And as it is APPOINTED unto men once to die, but after this THE JUDGMENT." — Heb. 9:27.

Sometimes man makes appointments half-heartedly and doesn't expect to keep them. Sometimes man makes appointments and perhaps because of the weakness of the flesh has to break those appointments. Beloved, God never makes an appointment without keeping it, and God never makes an appointment for you, but what you are going to keep it. This text says that God has made two appointments. One is the appointment of death. God knows exactly when you are going to die. God knows exactly the manner whereby you are going to die. God knows exactly the time, the manner, and the

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We highly recommend this commentary. It is written in such a way that it is easy to read and understand. If you have been looking for the best on John's Gospel, we suggest that you get this set.

place whereby you are going to leave this world. Then God has made a second appointment and that is the judgment. As it is appointed unto men once to die, it is likewise appointed unto them to come to the judgment bar of God.

May I remind you that the very thought of the judgment ought to cause a quaking within your bones this day. The very fact that you know you are going to have to come before God to be judged ought to cause a consternation to come over you — to think that you have to stand someday before God.

Supposed you were summoned by the police to appear before the municipal judge for the violation of a traffic ordinance — perhaps, you have been speeding. There isn't any individual but that would go into the presence of even a municipal judge with a little fear, and a little quaking, as he went there to meet that judge.

Suppose you were to go before the judge of the land for the purpose of being tried, maybe with your life in the balance, maybe

perhaps with the prospect of you being brought to death, as a result of the trial. You would go there, I would say, quaking and fearful.

But I am not talking about the meeting of the municipal judge. I am not talking about meeting the judge of the land this morning. I am talking about meeting the God of the universe. "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

Yes, I say I have warned you so far as sin is concerned, and I have warned you so far as the judgment is concerned.

I have also warned you so far as Hell is concerned. It is bad enough to think that a man is going to die, and it is bad enough to think that a man is going to come to the judgment, but it is a whole lot worse to remember that there is a Hell of fire awaiting him. Listen:

"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels; In flaming fire TAKING VENGEANCE on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with EVERLASTING DESTRUCTION from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power." — II Thess. 1:7-9.

Brother, sister, don't tell me there isn't a Hell coming. Don't tell me there isn't a time approaching when we are going to have to stand before God. There is a time coming when God is going to consign you as a lost sinner into a lake of fire. These verses tell us that that day is fast approaching.

Notice again:

"The same shall drink of the wine of the WRATH OF GOD, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and THEY HAVE NO REST DAY NOR NIGHT, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name." — Rev. 14:10, 11.

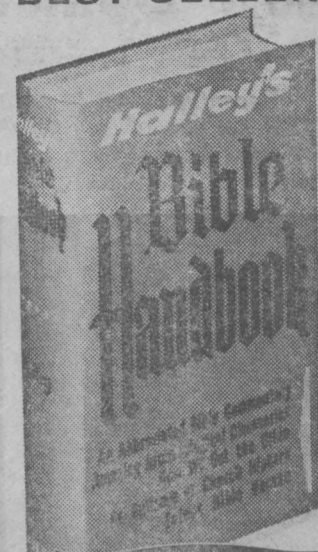
I ask you, did you get any rest last night? Were you able to close your eyes and sleep? Thank God if you were, for it may be the last rest you ever have. Did you get any rest at all last night, even so much as five minutes? Do you get as much as an hour, two hours, or five hours' rest last night? Get on your knees now before God and thank God for the rest you got. It might be the last rest you'll ever have throughout eternity, for if you were to die this morning, you would never have one moment's rest throughout a never-ending, a never-ceasing, an ever-continuing and eternal eternity.

Listen again:

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

If you are a church member and have been baptized, remember those things don't carry any weight at the judgment. It isn't the church record book that counts, but it is the Lamb's book of life. It isn't a question of whether or not the church will vouch for you that you are in good standing; the question is, is your name recorded in the Lamb's book of life? If not, then

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Calvary Baptist Church Ashland, Kentucky

for you there is a lake of fire.

Can you imagine what it would be like if you were to be cast into a lake of fire? Every time I read this verse of Scripture my mind goes to the local rolling mill. A man, years ago, fell into one of those open furnaces. The man who told me of this incident, said he saw it, and that it looked just like he dissolved as he went down into that molten iron — 2200 degrees Fahrenheit. The rolling mill never did roll that metal from the furnace. They just took it out and dumped it. It is there today with a human being that just melted and dissolved into that molten iron.

Brother, sister, I am not talking to you this morning about 2200 degrees Fahrenheit. I am not talking about molten iron, but I am talking about you going into a place, where you will suffer eternally in a lake of fire.

I have also warned you about false churches; that there can be nothing good come from these churches who have not the gospel of Jesus Christ to be preached. I have warned you that these false churches do not have the true Word of God. I have warned you that these false churches do not give to you the truth. When Sunday comes, and when the worship services arrive, I say to you, you are not going to hear salvation by grace in these Arminian churches. It is there you hear salvation by works and salvation by water. You only hear of salvation by grace in a true church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I remind you that that charming sound of all sounds, to fall upon a sinner's ears, is the sound of grace, free grace. God sent His Son to the cross of Calvary to pay for your sins, that you freely might be pardoned by your sins having been paid for on the cross of Calvary. I tell you, beloved, you don't hear salvation by grace in Arminian churches. They will (Continued on page 4, column 1)

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

APRIL 17, 1965

PAGE THREE

J. R. GRAVES

Seven Dispensations

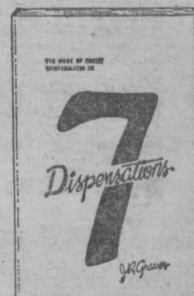
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New Guinea Photo Story

By FRED T. HALLIMAN

Recently I sent in an article to THE BAPTIST EXAMINER telling of my trip to the Solomon islands. These pictures will show you a few of the things that I saw while there.



As mentioned in my previous article, it was late when I reached Bro. Uming's village that night and I immediately prepared for bed upon my arrival. The first thing I saw the next morning was the house you see in this picture and what was to be my living quarters for most of the time that I spent there. Though a very modest abode, it was nevertheless very comfortable and most adequate for the climate and general surroundings. It like many other houses sits empty now awaiting the time when I can go back for a few days and occupy it. If a man's financial status could be determined by the number of houses he has I suppose I could say that I am very rich. The natives try to do what they can to make me comfortable and feel wanted and appreciated, and while most folk back in America would consider these houses no more than very poor hog houses, I consider them a heaven sent blessing.



The next thing that I saw was Brother Uming's house. His house was no more than about 10 yards from the one I occupied, and about the only difference is that his house has a small porch. You will note among other things, there are two trees with fruit on them. These trees are Paw Paw trees and the fruit is a very sweet, yellow meated fruit, and very high in content of vitamin C. These trees grow in abundance and furnish much of their food.

"Perishing - Warned"

(Continued from page 3)
tell you that you can be saved by what you do. They will give you moral essays whereby they will say, "You just do the best you can and everything will be

all right in the end." I tell you, beloved, it will not be all right in the end, unless you have Jesus Christ as your Saviour. These false churches do not have the gospel to preach. I have warned you of it. I have warned you what is going to become of them.

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In this picture you see Brother Uming holding a huge pot. These pots are made of clay, put up over a fire to season and dry out and then used to cook food in. They have various sizes but all of the same shape. Some are about twice the size of this, i.e. about "man size."



This old man was the oldest person that I saw while there. He did not know how old he was but according to the things that had happened in his flow of conversation I figured that he was past 75. In "his day" he was a man to be feared and Brother Uming said he had killed many people. He has been a "Church goer" though for many years and is trying to "do right" now, no doubt one of the best moral specimens of the human flesh you would ever expect to see, but he is lost. Pray for this old man as Uming tries to reach him with the gospel of Christ.

Jesus said:

"For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them." — Mt. 13:15.

Don't tell me these false churches are going to prosper forever. Don't tell me that all these false churches, that have had their beginning outside the Lord Jesus Christ, are going to last forever. Jesus said:

"Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be ROOTED UP." — Mt. 15:13.

Notice, it doesn't say, "may take place," but it says, "shall be rooted up."

I turn to Revelation 17 and I read about the old whore and her harlot daughters, which represent Roman Catholicism and the false churches that have come out of Rome. I find John saying:

"And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall HATE THE WHORE, and shall make her DESOLATE and NAKED, and shall EAT her flesh, and BURN her with fire." — Rev. 17:

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APRIL 17, 1965

PAGE FOUR



This is the church building that we held most of our services in while there. All these buildings that you see are made of leaves of a certain tree called Sak Sak. These houses last up to 7 years.



Along with a portion of the church building can be seen a part of the people that attended preaching services the first Sunday. Note the difference in appearance in the natives and the ones you have been seeing in the pictures of those from this area here in the Southern Highlands of New Guinea. Also you will get some idea from this picture as to the jungles that continually surround you there. During the War, the Japanese had a house built only a few feet from the farthest point that you can see in this picture. They ate and destroyed the natives food, and after they were cut off by the Americans, they ate many of the natives

16. Rome's days are numbered. Rome's days will soon come to an end. Rome's days will soon run out. There is a day coming when the old whore and her harlot daughters are all going to be destroyed.

It doesn't look like it today, does it? It has gotten so now that you are not even a good Christian if you say anything against Rome. You are not a good Christian if you say anything against the Protestant churches of the world. You are not even a good Christian if you dare in any wise at all to speak disrespectfully of another's religion. But I say to you, I am not speaking respectfully of it when I warn you, and tell you what is out before them. Cardinal Spellman may sneeze today, and get his picture on the front page of every newspaper from Maine to California, but there is a day coming when the Catholic church and the Protestant churches that have come out of Rome are going to be destroyed, as this text of Scripture us.

ed, as this text of Scripture us.

I have also warned you that there is no salvation apart from Jesus Christ. For the last 20 years I have held the truth that there is no salvation apart from Jesus Christ. I have preached over the air, I have put an editorial in THE BAPTIST EXAMINER, I have conducted a Bible Conference, a revival meeting, and I have never preached in our church but that I held up the truth, that there is no salvation apart from Jesus Christ. Listen: "And almost all things are the law purged with blood, and WITHOUT SHEDDING BLOOD IS NO REMISSION." Heb. 9:22.

Yes, beloved, in six thousand years of earth's history God never remitted one single sin except on the basis of the shedding of Jesus Christ.

Notice again:

"Neither by the blood of goats nor of calves, but by the blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God." (Continued on page 5, column 1)

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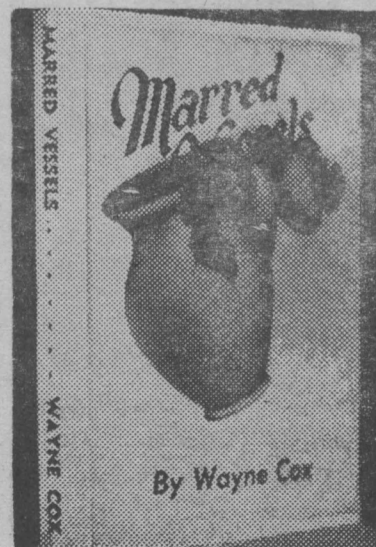
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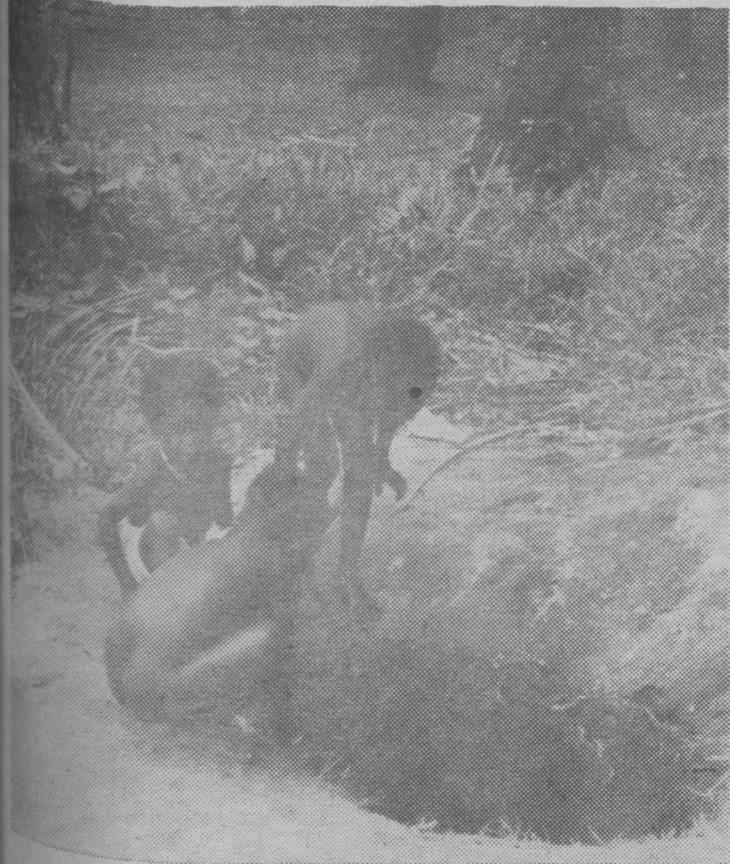
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CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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The story shifts now from Uming's village and the surrounding area, to scenes along the road and at another village about 7 miles away where I spent a few days and also held several services. In this picture you see three little boys just as I saw them playing along side of the road. There is one more that you do not see, down in the hole. Perhaps the three are holding the ladder for the fourth one. Most of the little boys of this size look just like these do and occasionally you would see a small girl without clothes.



While living in Brother Joshua's village this was my home. This village was ultra tropical, the same kind that you have read of and heard about being in the South Seas, the people very friendly, and this house was a village mansion. The man that owns this house is a good carpenter, insofar as natives go, and he had the inside fixed up as well as the outside looks. Tropical fruits and nuts were in abundance in and around this village and the natives were continually bringing me things to eat. One day I noticed several little boys playing baseball just outside of my house and I noted that they had a rather large amount of balls, just like they do for a big league game, but I noticed that the balls were quite different than I had ever seen used in a baseball game. Upon further investigation I discovered that they were lemons. Needless to say that I had plenty of lemonade while there, without the ice of course.

"Perishing - Warned" for us." — Heb. 9:12.

(Continued from page 4)
and calves, but **BY HIS OWN** BLOOD he entered in once into the holy place, having **OBTAINED ETERNAL REDEMPTION**

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ARTHUR W. PINK

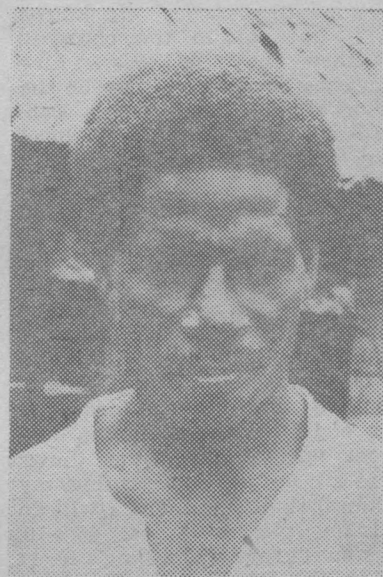
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CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
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This old woman is from the same village and though white headed she is still very active. I don't know what her age is but it can be seen that she is no youngster. She attended the services several times while I was there. This picture was made at the Church building.



This fellow is Brother Joshua Montoru. Brother Joshua has been a Methodist pastor for some time but did not know the Lord. He is saved though now and will be a very valuable man in our new work there. He has a high school education, speaks good English and has had other advanced training including Choir training. Several from his village are attending the Baptist services now. I have recently had a letter from him saying that many villages were wanting him to come and hold services and he felt that the Lord would use him, at least for now, as an evangelist. I was greatly impressed regarding his capabilities and possibilities.

the cross. I tell you, beloved, I have nothing else to offer a man by way of salvation except that Jesus Christ died for your sins.

Listen again:
"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." — John 10:9.

He didn't say, "I am a door," as if to indicate you might find some other door. Rather, He said, "I am the door," and when He said that, He might just as well have said, "There is none other door." He might just as well have said, "I am the only door."

We read again:
"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." — John 14:6.

He might as well have said, "I am the way and there is no other way." He didn't say, "I am a way." He didn't say, "You can take the way of baptism, or you can take the way of church membership, or you can take the way of good works, or a good life, or the keeping of the law." Instead, He said, "I am the way."



In this picture standing beside me is a man by the name of Nakau, he is about 60 years old. Until recently he thought there were only three kinds of Missions, i.e. Methodist, Catholics, and Seventh Day Adventist. He gave me a short story as follows. "Many hundreds of years ago, only Giants lived on this Island. One day a man and his sister left another one of the Islands in the Solomon group and came to Bougainville. His name was TANTANU (which means God). Tantanu, came to the southern tip of the island, close to where we were. Some more came and finally the brother of Tantanu came. One day Tantanu was walking on the beach and saw some beads, like the ones around the neck of this man in the picture, and when he had put them on a long pole and dried them decided they would be good for money to buy a wife with. From that day on the beads were their money and are still regarded as valuable. About 4 strands of them will buy a wife. Tantanu decided to go inland and seek out the Giants. Soon he came in contact with them, a fight ensued and Tantanu won bringing peace to the island. Now they think the Bible is the talk of Tantanu. During the war the Japs ruined everything they had and killed many of the people. After the war everything began to change for them and now with the coming of the Baptist Mission to their Island another milestone has been reached."



This picture was made at yet another village, the home of Joshua's wife. The scenery here was very impressive also. Any direction you look coconut trees are plentiful.

I say to you, there is no hope for the man who fails to come by way of Jesus Christ so far as salvation is concerned.

I have warned you about sin. I have warned you about the judgment. I have warned you about Hell. I have warned you about the errors and the false teachings of the heterodoxical churches. I have warned you that there is no salvation apart from Jesus Christ. I have warn-

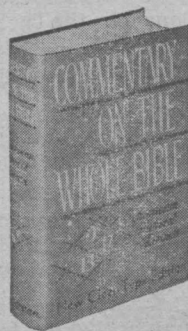
ed you this morning. I warned you last Sunday. I have warned you on Wednesday nights. I have warned you through the years. As I have preached over the radio, and as I have preached from this pulpit, as I have written editorial after editorial, I have warned you of these things. Beloved, I stand before you this morning to warn you again.

I remember the engineer on (Continued on page 8, column 1)

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
P. O. Box 910 — Ashland, Kentucky

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

APRIL 17, 1965

PAGE FIVE

The Baptist Examiner FORUM

"Would one scripturally baptized Baptist Church member, a thousand miles from his church and having no designated authority, and no means of communication with his home church (as in the early days of the West), have the scriptural authority to baptize converts and establish them into a church?"



ROY
MASON

Radio Minister
Baptist
Preacher
Aripeka, Florida

I don't think so. The question of authority is at stake here. Suppose that under like circumstances a member of a large commercial concern should take a notion to form a branch office or a new factory, and without any authorization whatsoever should do so without any word from anybody. Lacking authority his actions would not be binding nor would they be recognized. The financial and commercial world would be plunged into chaos if members of business concerns should go out and without any authority to do so, should start all sorts of enterprises. Let us remember that the things of God are of far greater importance, than are the things of the commercial world.

A church member far from his church, should have himself clothed with authority to baptize and start new churches before leaving home, or else he should delay the baptism of new converts and the organization of them into a church until he has communicated with his home church and has received from it the authority. Unlike the Campbellites, we don't believe that baptism saves or helps to save, nor do we believe that church membership saves, so baptism and church organization could well wait until expressed authority could be received.

I recall that a person once argued that baptism should be administered without such authority as suggested above, and he cited the case of the baptism of the Ethiopian by Philip (Acts 8: 26-40). My answer was that so far as we know Philip had authority from his church to bap-

tize. (Who can prove that he didn't have?) But suppose for argument's sake he didn't have? We know he had special divine authority for what he did, for (v. 26) "the angel of the Lord" sent him on this mission. This authority was seconded by the Holy Spirit. (v. 29) "Then the Spirit said unto Philip—" I think that I would readily baptize a convert without more ado, if an angel and the Holy Spirit should both speak to me and tell me to do so. Lacking such immediate authorization from heaven, I would certainly not baptize without authorization from a church.

E. G.
COOK

701 Cambridge
Birmingham, Ala.

BIBLE TEACHER

Grace
Baptist Church
Birmingham, Ala.



Before we deal with the question before us may we just step back for a moment and take a good look at Him who is head over the church. In Dan. 4:35 we are told that "All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand, or say unto Him, What doest thou? A clear understanding of this verse of Scripture will put us in our proper place, and at the same time it will put our Lord in His proper place in our thinking. I read a sign recently which said, "The boss may not always be right, but he is always boss." But here is a case where the boss is always right, and He is always boss. He does anything and everything He wants to do, and He does it the way He wants to do it. Sometime back I heard a man in a so-called Baptist Church here in our

city pray that God would bless what the Lord was trying to do in Mexico. That poor fellow just did not know the Lord that I know. My Lord has never tried to do anything in Mexico, or anywhere else. He is not a trying God. He doeth according to His own will everywhere.

This great and wonderful God that I know and serve told Jeremiah that, "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest out of the womb I sanctified thee and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations," Jer. 1:5. My God did not have to wait and see if Jeremiah would be a boy or a girl. He did not have to wait and see if Jeremiah would make a "decision" for Him, and if he would answer the call to be a prophet unto the nations. He just went ahead and sanctified Jeremiah and ordained him a prophet unto the nations while he was still in his mother's womb. If you do not have a God like that, don't you wish you did? I tell you it is so wonderful to have your eternal destiny in the hands of such a great and all-powerful God.

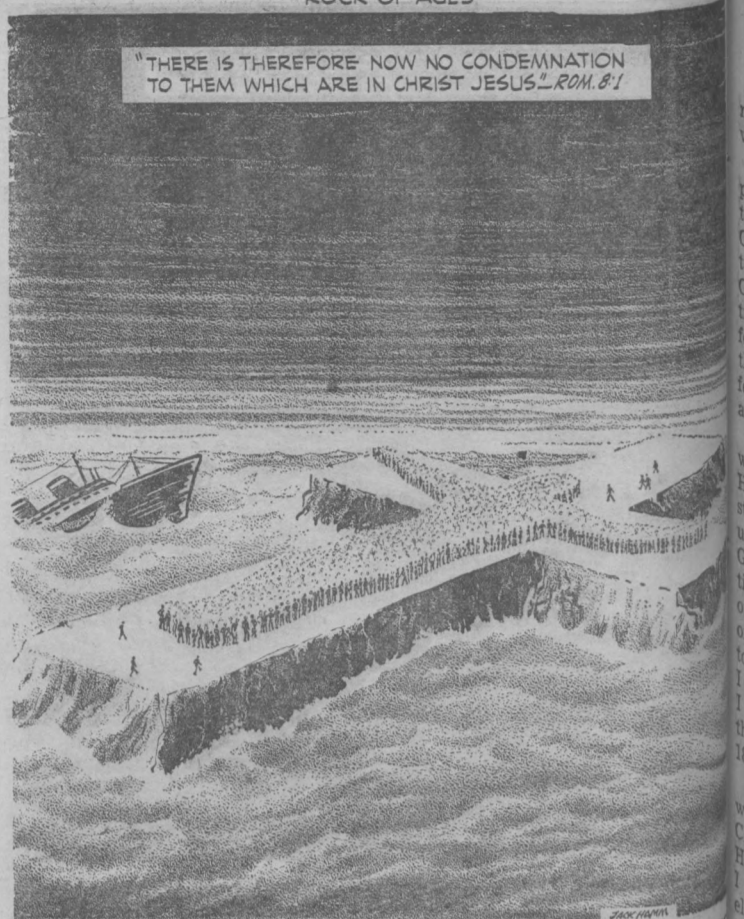
In Rev. 2 and 3 our Lord tells each of the seven churches that, "I know thy works." He knows what goes on in the churches whether they be His true churches or whether they be the other fellow's churches. In Eph. 1:22 we learn that "He is head over all things to the church." The Williams version says He is "The supreme head of the church which is His body, that is being filled by Him." Acts 2:47 tells us that, "The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." This one who does the adding says, "I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, my counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure." Isa. 46:9-10. Again He says, "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: He turneth it whithersoever He will," Prov. 21:1.

Then from Eph. 3:9-10 we read, "To enlighten all men and make plain to them what is the plan regarding the Gentiles and providing for the salvation of all men, of the mystery kept hidden through the ages and concealed until now in the mind of God who created all things by Christ Jesus. The purpose is that through the church the complicated, many-sided wisdom of God in all its infinite variety and innumerable aspects might now be made known." (Amplified version). If this Scripture means anything to me it is that our Lord carries on His work in the world today through His churches. I find no Scriptural reason for even the best of our Lord's saints going out on their own apart from any church authority trying to do the Lord's work.

With the afore-mentioned facts before us may I ask if the question before us is not extremely hypothetical? Does it not assume, or suppose that our Lord who is head over His churches, who does whatever He pleases whenever He pleases, and wherever He pleases, who knows the end from the beginning, who turns our mighty kings, or rulers whithersoever He will, and who carries on His work in the world through His churches, has now been caught unawares? That is, has He not been caught by surprise, and without previous planning for a church in this secluded place He now sorely needs has been hemmed into a corner where He must now accept a substitute for His before ordained procedure? Perish the thought. If the need arises for a church in this far-away, secluded place our Lord knew of that need before this baptized Baptist Church member was ever baptized, or before he was even born. And since our Lord can

ROCK OF AGES

"THERE IS THEREFORE NOW NO CONDEMNATION TO THEM WHICH ARE IN CHRIST JESUS." ROM. 8:1



turn even our wicked rulers whithersoever He will it would be a little thing for Him to put it into the minds and hearts of His saints in the church from which this brother goes for them to give him the proper authority to take care of the situation when it arises.

So my answer to this question is a flat, resounding "NO" that I wish could be heard around the world.



AUSTIN
FIELDS

PASTOR,
Arabia Baptist
Church
Arabia, Ohio

No. No one individual has the authority to administer the ordinance of baptism or the organization of a church. "Now I praise you brethren, that you remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances as I delivered them unto you."—I Cor. 11:2.

Notice, that the ordinances were not delivered unto the pastor, or deacons, or to some particular person, but to the brethren of the church. The church and the church alone has the God given authority to baptize and to organize baptized believers into a church. Read Math. 16:18-19.

In these verses the Lord promises to build up His church and then declared that "I will give unto thee (church) the keys (authority) to bind and to loose." He did not delegate this authority to the Apostle Peter, but to the disciples who were a called out assembly, thus were a church. Math. 28:18-20.

In these verses the Lord gives the keys (authority) to His church to make disciples, baptize them, and to teach them the all things. No one else has that authority, though he may be

Scripturally baptized.

The Apostle Peter when given the direct revelation from the Holy Spirit baptized the household of Cornelius (Acts 10:44-48). The church at Jerusalem heard about it and called Peter on carpet for his action. After hearing the Apostle Peter explain action the church then made decision as to whether the baptism of Cornelius and his household were valid.

"When they (church) heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the gentiles granted repentance unto life." Acts 11:18.

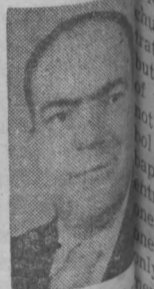
Those who go forth baptizing without any designated authority, do so on the authority of man rather than on the authority from heaven. Those who are baptized by such men have the baptism of men rather than that of heaven. "The baptism of John was of repentance to the remission of sins; it was of the Lord's commandment, that ye should be baptized, every one of you, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, unto the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."—Luke 20:4.

JAMES
HOBBS

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McDermott, Ohio

RADIO SPEAKER
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The answer to the question is a very definite "no." In order to explain my answer we must give a short study on baptism and the church. The reason for this is the answer is because baptism must have a proper administrator. Baptism is too sacred a ordinance to become so common a place that anyone can administer it. We must remember that He walked many miles to be baptized by John (a God man) rather than designate one else to administer His baptism (see Matt. 3:13-17). friends, if Christ thought this (Continued on page 7, column 2)

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

APRIL 17, 1965

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The Forum

(Continued from page six)
 administrator of such importance, we must also think so.
 In order to find out who is the proper administrator we must go to the only source of light — Gods revealed word. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (II Tim. 3:16, 17).
 As Jesus prepared to leave this world to go back to the Father, He gave to His church certain instructions. "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." (Matt. 28:18-20).

I realize that there are some who find it hard to believe that Christ was giving these orders to His church, but I must say that I find it hard to think anything else. After all, if Christ is talking to individuals here, as such, He seems to expect them to last "unto the end of the world." We all know that the apostles could not, but that the church of which they were members could. Matthew 16:17 tells us "And I say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." Christ is telling us that the church that He organized would last until the end of the world. Those of you who are so concerned about "Landmarkism" would do well to remember what Christ said, and accept the fact that His church would last. I'm sure you would then see that they will always be a church and they will always be in proper relationship with one another.)

The commission of Matthew 28:18-20 gives the church the authority to preach the gospel to the world, and to administer the ordinances and to teach the saved. We know this to be true because of the fact that the church is the "pillar and ground of the truth." (I Tim. 3:15).

Not only do we understand the church to be the proper administrator because of the commission, but we also understand it because of the purpose of baptism. I do not mean, at this time, the symbolism of baptism. I mean because baptism happens to be the only entrance into the church. "For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body..." (I Cor. 12:13). The only way that we can become a member of a church is through the waters of baptism. Obviously, the church should be the one to administer baptism.

Now, we realize that the church is an institution and as such cannot administer baptism. But the church as an assembly can designate and authorize someone to administer it. The Lord Jesus Christ authorized the disciples to baptize (John 4:1, 2).

We know that the church is to authorize individuals to carry out

the commission because of Acts 13:1-3. "Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene; and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the Tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away." We also have the example of the church sending representatives to teach others in Acts 11:19-26.

There are some who say that Paul did not have church authority to baptize when he baptized in Acts 18:4-11 and Acts 19:1-10. Who says he didn't? We have just read where the church sent him out upon the leadership of the Holy Spirit in Acts 13:1-3. Upon the authority of the Scriptures, I say he did. We have some who say that Phillip did not have church authority when he baptized in Acts 8:26-40. Again I say, "who says he didn't?" It is true that the Scripture does not say point blank that he had church authority, but the Scripture has shown that it must be through the church. We have seen where the church does authorize people to

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fulfill the commission. The Bible tells us to "Let all things be done decently and in order." (I Cor. 14:40) Again upon the authority of the Scriptures, I say he did. Let me remind you that, God does not contradict Himself, nor does He teach one thing in one place and practice something else in another. There are times when He expects us to interpret the actions of His people by the teaching of other Scripture.

SECOND QUESTION

"If not, what would be the minimum number required to so authorize baptism and the establishment of a new church?"

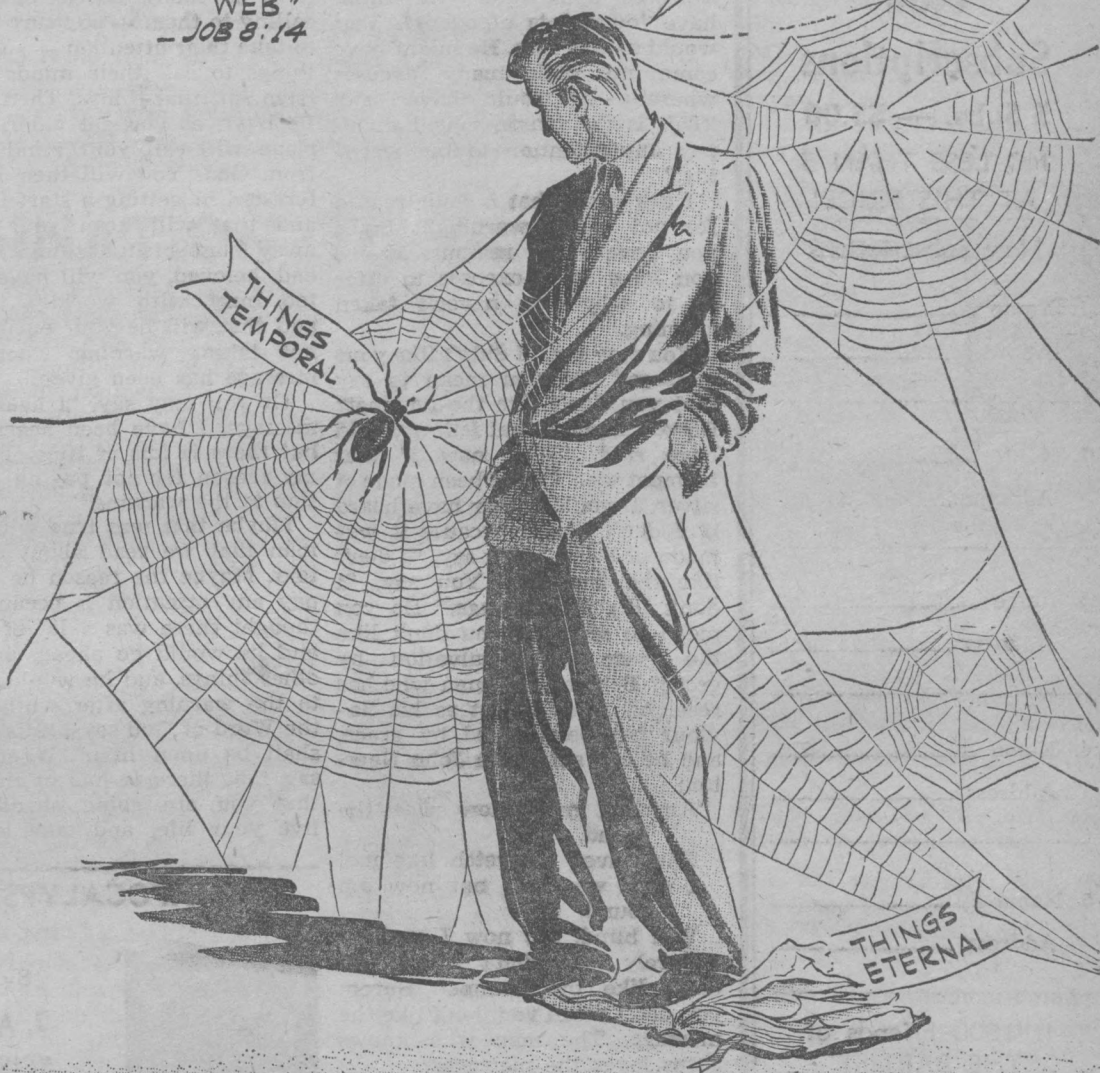
ROY MASON

I do not believe that any number could provide the proper authorization, if they are without any authority from a properly constituted Baptist Church. I recall an incident that occurred in Brazil, where I served as a missionary for a time. In north

ANCHOR POST FOR A WEB

"WHOSE HOPE SHALL BE CUT OFF, AND WHOSE TRUST SHALL BE A SPIDER'S WEB"
 — JOB 8:14

FASCINATING...
 UTTERLY FASCINATING...



JACK HAMM

Brazil, a Bible fell into the hands of a Brazilian. He read it and became a believer. He led friends and neighbors to read this wonderful book, and soon there was a whole group of saved people. They read in the New Testament about believers being baptized and grouping into churches. They learned that some distance away there was a group which met as a church, and some of them visited this group. It was a Presbyterian mission station, and when the missionary proposed to sprinkle them, they rebelled, insisting that such was not the kind of baptism taught in the Bible. Finally, the missionary in exasperation said, "You people may not know it, but you are Baptists. If you will go to the city of Recife you will find some people who believe as you do." So a delegation from the group of believers came to Recife for advice as to how they could be properly baptized and formed into a church. A missionary friend of mine was authorized by his church to go and baptize the group and to form them into a Baptist Church. He did so, and the church is probably still functioning unto this day.

E. G. COOK

I know nothing of a minimum number required in this case. If a church is Scripturally organized it has the authority to authorize baptism and the establishment of new churches without any thought as to the number of members the church may have. On the other hand if a hundred Scripturally baptized Baptist Church members were to go out from a church together to some far-away secluded place, or to any other place they still would have no authority to baptize others or to establish a new church unless they had been given that authority by their church. After all they would be just one hundred individual church members. And since one individual church member does

not have any authority apart from church authorization if you multiply none by one hundred you still have none. Therefore one hundred unauthorized church members would have no more authority than would one unauthorized member. And since our Lord gave the authority only to His churches, and since He chooses to work only through His churches, therefore if you want authority to preach the gospel, baptize believers, or institute a new church you MUST go to the church for it. If you desire a loaf of bread you go where they have bread. It's just that simple.

AUSTIN FIELDS

Numbers do not constitute authority to baptize or to organize new churches. If numbers constitute authority, then Alexander Campbell, with all of his heresy and all of his error, had that authority, for he sojourned with the Baptists for a while, then was excluded from Baptist association in Penn. He then with his followers organized the Campbellite movement. Then he baptized those who came to them but they baptized without authority, they organized churches without authority.

Many are the men who like Campbell have thought that

numbers gave them the right to baptize and start new churches, but they like all the rest of the Protestants move on the feelings and lusts of the flesh rather than under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. "Now I beseech you brethren mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned and avoid them." — Rom. 16:17.

Those who separate themselves from the true church, and who have caused divisions and offenses contrary to God's Word the church must disown, not only them as members of the body of Christ but any official act that they might do, must also be repudiated.

There have been men who were Scripturally baptized, who gathered together a number of people who also were Scripturally baptized thinking that they were a church because of their baptism and their number, but they only err here for baptism and the organizing of new churches is the work of the church, and not the work of a preacher, or anyone else without church authority.

JAMES HOBBS

If the question means how many people who are a long ways from the church, then I (Continued on page 8, column 5)

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