

It takes no brains to be an atheist.

# 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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## PREFIXATION

JAMES F. CRACE

And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no man's life among you, of the ship. For there stood me this night the angel of the Lord, saying, Fear not, Paul: thou shalt be brought before Caesar: lo, God hath given thee all that sail with thee. Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I have God, that it shall be even as he told me. Howbeit we were cast upon a certain isle.—Acts 27:22-26.

The doctrine of the Bible which all refer to as PREFIXATION has long been assailed by those who have little knowledge of the true God. It is not uncommon for those who are commonly called great preachers and teachers of "Free-willism" to take a position which is opposed to the doctrine that all events, both large and small, have been predestinated by almighty God. To those whom God has revealed the truth of this matter, such opposition merely manifest how shallow and ignorant they

really are. These opponents of truth even



Eld. James F. Crace

go so far as to say that the fact of the Lord's foreknowledge does

not prove that everything has been prefixed. Some of them even say that though God knows what is going to come to pass yet those things may, or may not, happen. Others prefer to deny that the Lord of the universe does have a perfect knowledge of all things, past, present and future. Such is the position of those who like to think that God is like a man in respect to being ignorant of the future, and helpless to direct His creatures.

In my text we have Paul's statement that he believes everything will be exactly as God has said it will be. This is my conviction too, beloved. Do you recall why it was that Paul was on his way to Rome? In Acts 23:11 the Lord said, "Be of good cheer Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome." Here we have the reason of Paul's experiences in his life that finally caused him to find himself at Rome. Christ had told him that he must witness at Rome. I say to you, my friends, that absolutely nothing could have pre-

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

## HALLIMAN'S LETTER TO OUR BIBLE CONFERENCE

Brother Halliman left on August 6 for an extended trip into the deep interior of New Guinea. It will probably be two months before we can expect another letter from him in THE BAPTIST EXAMINER. Please remember Brother Halliman definitely in prayer.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, friends and all lovers of the truth:

Greetings to each of you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Though this is being written a



Eld. Fred T. Halliman

month to the day before Conference time and approximately 12,000 miles away from where you are assembled just now, I will attempt to project myself, in spirit and thought, to fit with the atmosphere of the Conference.

Though I have thoroughly en-

joyed every Bible Conference that I have ever been privileged to attend and have had a special interest in those held at Ashland since I have been here in New Guinea, I have an interest in this Conference in a very special way. It is my understanding that the theme of this Conference is to be "The Lord's Church." Nothing would please me more than to be able to hear the great messages that will be preached on the various subjects that revolve around this theme.

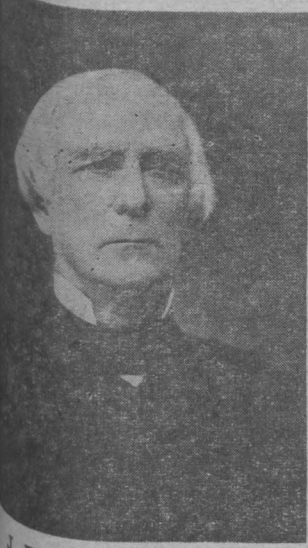
Nothing should interest a lost sinner more than the saving grace of a merciful God; nothing should be of more interest to a child of God than the Lord's church. When I speak of saved folk being interested in the Lord's church, I do not merely mean that folk ought, only, to be interested enough to go only occasionally but every time the church of which they are members assembles for services, and then at every special kind of service like this Conference, when opportunity presents itself. When I speak of folk being interested in the Lord's church I include in that, being interested enough to support the church with their presence, prayers, and proportionately as God has blessed them financially. As mentioned above, every member of every church should and has an obligation to support the church of which he is a member every time the church meets for services.

Some folk seem to have the idea, once they get baptized into

(Continued on page 2, column 5)

## WHY JETER'S BABY WAS NOT BAPTIZED

B. Jeter's third wife was a Presbyterian. A baby was born at home. His wife said some-



J. B. Jeter (1802-1880)

about like this: "Mr. Jeter, I knew I was a Presbyterian when you married me. As an Presbyterian I believe that baby ought to be baptized."

He consented on condition that she would consent to his holding the baby while the ceremony was performed. She thought it would be a feather in her cap to have the most prominent Baptist preacher in Virginia and one of the best known Baptist editors in the South to hold their baby, while a Presbyterian preacher baptized it.

So she consented. J. B. Jeter announced in his church in Richmond, that he would be out of his pulpit to be present at the Presbyterian Church and why. That church was jammed and packed. The scholarly and dignified Presbyterian preacher preached and then announced that those who had babies to be baptized would please bring them forward. Bro. Jeter and his wife arose and he took the baby in his arms and they walked to the front. He was careful to get at the end where they were to begin. Quite a number of other parents had children present for that purpose.

Just as the honored pastor of that Presbyterian church raised his hand to say the baptismal formula to baptize Bro. Jeter's baby, Bro. Jeter said something like this:

"My brother, you and I have been good friends for many years. My wife has been a member of your church for years and I have never tried to proselyte her to my faith. But as a Baptist I believe that we ought to be able to give a 'Thus saith the Lord' for all that we do. This is my baby as well as my wife's. Before you sprinkle my child, I want you to take your Bible and read out of the Book your authority for what you are about to do."

(Continued on page 8, column 5)

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PASTOR JOHN R. GILPIN  
is the speaker for each broadcast

## Independent and Democratic Church Government In N.T.

New Testament churches were independent and democratic in government. This fact is seen in

1. The Selection of Matthias.

While the method used in the selection of Matthias is not the usual method of voting employed today, Luke's account (Acts 1: 23-46) implies that the entire church participated in his selection. "They appointed" (vs. 23), "they prayed" (vs. 24), and "they gave forth their lots." The entire group of one hundred and twenty (vs. 15) is the most natural antecedent of the pronoun "they" in these expressions.

2. The Selection of the Seven Deacons.

When the need arose for these seven servants of the church the apostles did not assume the authority of appointing them, but "called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the Word of God, and serve

tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business" (Acts 6:2, 3). "And the saying pleased the whole multitude, and they chose" the seven men whose names are given. The multitude of the disciples, that is, the church, did the choosing.

3. The Sending of Barnabas and Saul.

In this we see the independence of New Testament churches. The church at Antioch, although it was much younger than the church at Jerusalem, acted in this matter independent of the church at Jerusalem and without so much as consulting the church at Jerusalem. Cf. Acts 13:1-3. Neither did the church consult the apostles.

4. The Exclusion and Restoration of the Incestuous Man at Corinth.

Paul addressed the church as a whole about this matter. Cf. I Cor. 5. And in his recommendation (Continued on page 8, column 4)

## CATHOLICS WANT US TO FORGET

Cardinal Spellman of New York spoke this week in Toronto. In brief, was simple—forget history." He declared there had been persecution of Catholics in the past among Christians, but that it was an aggravation of the situation to try at this date to afflict blame for this persecution. He called upon all Christians to refrain from trying to determine facts and to get together now.

We heard his plea on the radio we pictured a court criminal was in the evidence was overwhelmingly against him. What

(Continued on page 8, column 5)

## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor John R. Gilpin

### "THE DEVIL AND THE UNCONVERTED"

"The deceived and the deceiver are his."—Job 12:16.

"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."—II Cor. 2:11.

I am sure that one of the problems that have beset the human family is the problem of how to get rid of one's garbage. Some time ago, on one of the comedy programs of TV, one of the funniest shows that I have ever seen was built around a man and his wife getting rid of their garbage that had accumulated for some two or three days. Though they

left it in the washroom, though they gave it to the waiter in the restaurant, and though they did several things themselves to dispose of it, in every instance it came back to them. As I said, it was one of the funniest comedies that I have ever seen in my life, based on the idea of how to get rid of one's garbage.

Along about the same time, I read in the newspaper about a woman who said that she had found several whiskey bottles in her garbage, that she hadn't put there. She said that she didn't drink, and that it was embarrass-

ing to her, when she went out to her garbage can and found whiskey bottles dropped into it—that she couldn't bear the thought of the garbage man carrying away the garbage, finding whiskey bottles in her can, and having him think that she had been drinking. They asked her what she had done, and she said that the preacher lived next door, so she took them over, and put them in his garbage can because everybody knew that the preacher didn't drink. When I read that, I thought, that is about the way

(Continued on page 4, column 5)

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JOHN R. GILPIN Editor

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## Prefixation

(Continued from page one)

vented Paul from going to Rome. Neither could the events have been any different. Those who were involved in these things were also appointed to do and act as they did. You see how it is that all those people were directly connected with Paul's life? They played their role just as God had prefixed that they do. Each thought they had and each thing they did was prefixed by our sovereign God. Do you recall that it is said in Proverbs 16:1 that, "The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the Lord"? Yes, beloved, it is God who directs the lives of all creatures to the carrying out of His predetermined purpose. The very preparations of the heart, and even the answer of the tongue is from the Lord. Again in Proverbs 21:1 we read, "The kings heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: He turneth it whithersoever He will." And again in Jer. 10:23, "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." What more needs to be said in order to show that all men do exactly as they do because their lives have been prefixed by almighty God?

### The death of Christ was prefixed.

For further proof let's look into the death of Christ. To me, there is no better proof that all events in the lives of all men are prefixed. Concerning the betrayal of Christ we read, "And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by whom He is betrayed!"—Luke 22:22. Jesus says He was to be betrayed as it had been determined. Now, beloved, I am persuaded that this tells us that each event in the betrayal of Christ was prefixed by the hand of God. This made it necessary that all those involved do and think and say exactly as they did. Judas was predestinated to do the very things he did. He could not have done otherwise. The circumstances could not have been different. Each thing that Judas did was appointed by the Lord

and Judas had to fulfill God's appointment. For more light on this matter look at John 13:18, which says, "I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me." Since God had said in His Word that Judas was to eat bread with Christ and betray Him, who would be so foolish as to say Judas could have kept from doing the things he did?

The crucifixion of Christ was likewise prefixed by the sovereign will of God. We read, "The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers of the earth were gathered together against the Lord, and against His Christ. For of a truth against Thy holy child Jesus, who Thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, for to do whatsoever Thy hand and Thy counsel determined before to be done."—Acts 4:26-28. Now, don't tell me all these people could have refused to do the things they did. Don't tell me they could have lived elsewhere, or that they could have been saved and therefore been on the Lord's side in this matter. No, no, beloved, all these men did exactly as God had predestinated them to do. Do I hear some of you say that God was not moving these men? Listen. "Then saith Pilate unto Him, Speakest thou not unto me? Knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and I have power to release thee?" Jesus answered, "Thou couldest have no power at all against Me, except it were given thee from above . . ."—John 19:9-11. Here Jesus says God must even give the power to men to be against Him. Since Pilate and the rest of these men were against Christ, it can only be that God had given them power to be so. These men were gathered together to do that which God had predestinated them to do. They could not have done otherwise.

In Acts 13:29 we have the same truth set forth as we read, "And when they had fulfilled all that was written of Him, they took Him down from the tree, and laid Him in a sepulchre." Beloved,

every time you read of something being fulfilled, you have the doctrine of PREFIXATION shown to you. In like manner, each time any event occurs in the universe, you have the doctrine of prefixation declared to you. Yes, I say that the life of Paul, and all the events of his life happened because it had all been prefixed by the hand of God. I say too, that all the events included in the death of Christ were prefixed and those involved had to fulfill their part.

### Election is prefixed

The election of certain individuals to eternal life has been prefixed in eternity past, by the hand of almighty God. Therefore Jesus said in John 6:37, "All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me . . ." Will you try to tell me that those spoken of in this verse do not have a prefixed destiny? Christ says they SHALL COME TO HIM. I say that Christ did not lie here, nor was He mistaken. The elect must come to Christ and be saved. There is no way for them to keep from coming to Him. God has prefixed their lives and they cannot but come to salvation. In I Thess. 5:9 we are told that the elect have been appointed to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ. It is plain that there is a personal, individual election of some of the human race to eternal life. It is also plain that God has prefixed the destiny of each of the elect so that they must come to Christ at God's appointed time.

### Reprobation is prefixed

We read, "And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: WHEREUNTO ALSO THEY WERE APPOINTED." I Peter 2:8. Now what does this passage say? It says the reprobates have been appointed to stumble at the word and be disobedient. Come on all you lovers of free-will! Come on all you deniers of God's sovereignty! Look the Word of God squarely in the eye. God says He has prefixed the lives of those spoken of in this verse. Job says, in Job 14:5, that man's days are determined and that God has appointed his bounds that he cannot pass. I am persuaded that this appointment of the bounds of all men extends beyond this life to the eternal dwelling of men. That is, not only has God prefixed each life and event of all the elect, but He has also appointed them to be saved and to spend eternity with Him as His children. Likewise He has not only appointed the lives and all the events in the case of the reprobates, but He has also appointed them to eternal damnation in the eternal hell. Yes, without hesitation I say the election of some of the race of men has been prefixed by almighty God, and the appointing of the reprobate to eternal hell has been prefixed by almighty God.

### Peter's denial was prefixed.

In Matt. 26:34 Jesus said to Peter, "Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice." If you read on you will see that Peter did deny knowing Christ. I say Peter had to deny Christ in the light of the words of Christ. Jesus said THOU SHALT DENY ME. Here we have one of the many, many places which shows definitely that all the events of all our lives have been prefixed. How could Peter have failed to do that which Jesus said he was going to do? And if Peter had to do that which he did, surely you will not deny that this event was prefixed by God's hand.

### Jeremiah's life was prefixed.

God said, "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."—Jer. 1:5. How can you

fail to see that Jeremiah's life was prefixed? He was sure to be born. He was sure to be a prophet unto the nations. If you read more of this first chapter you will see that God had prefixed the places Jeremiah was to go, and even the words Jeremiah was to speak. Beloved, you can rest assured that as the life of Jeremiah was prefixed by the hand of God, so is the life of all other men.

As a point of contrast let me remind you of Pharaoh. He lived the life he lived, and did the things he did because God had prefixed his life. God said unto Pharaoh, "Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might show my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth."—Rom. 9:17. Here, then, are two men, one a man of God, and one a man of the Devil, who plainly had a prefixed destiny. I say we can without doubt say that likewise all the lives and destinies of all of God creatures, including all men, are prefixed.

### Conclusion.

Down with your false notions of being able to determine your own lives. Such foolishness is founded on the false teachings of those who have no knowledge of the true God of the universe. Flee from such ignorance and acknowledge the only true and living God.

Every time you read the words "it shall come to pass" in the Bible you are looking squarely at the doctrine of prefixation. Every time you hear God say "I will cause such and such a thing to occur" you are seeing the doc-

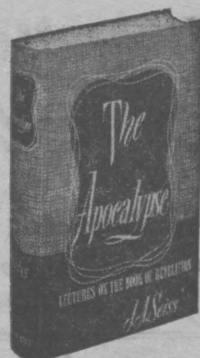
## SEND TBE AS A GIFT TO YOUR BEST FRIEND!

trine of prefixation. There has never been, nor shall there ever be, an event occur in the universe that was not prefixed by the hand of almighty God. The birth, life, death of each individual has been prepurposed, predestinated, and prefixed from before the foundation of the world. Likewise all other events come to pass simply because God willed that they should come to pass. I fear that most do not have much of a grasp of the greatness of God. You think He is limited like we men. Well, beloved, you have quite a shock coming to you when you learn that God is not like men. In accordance with His prefixed plan we live and move and have our very being. We will all do well to come to this knowledge and bow to Him Who is sovereign.

In closing let me say that I believe the doctrine of prefixation with an unwavering faith. Yet I also believe the doctrine of man's responsibility with the same intenseness. There is no doubt that all things and all events in the universe are prefixed and unchangeable. Neither is there any doubt that us men are responsible to obey the Word of God in its rightly divided truth.

You can go ahead rebelling against this great truth of prefixation if you are able, yet you

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won't do anything but show your ignorance. You can go ahead and laugh at those of us who believe and teach this great truth but you won't change the truth. God foreknows all things because He has decreed all things. Yes, beloved, our God is even that big enough to have prefixed every event just exactly as it comes to pass in time. The election and salvation of whom He pleases belongs to Him. The reprobation and damnation of whom He pleases belongs to Him. The making some rich, some poor, some seeing, some blind, some great, some small, some wise some ignorant; all of these things belong to our God. He hath done whatsoever hath pleased Him. The Lord bless you all.

Fred T. Halliman

(Continued from page one) one of the Lord's churches it is then more or less optional with them as to when, if at all, they go to church. Nothing is more foreign to the teaching of the Scriptures than this. Once a Christian is baptized he has no option as to when he should attend church, but he is duty bound; he has been bought with a price and is not his own. Our Lord said, "Where two or three are gathered together, there will be in the midst of them." At every assembly of every church all members have an appointment with the Lord Jesus to be there and unless they are providentially hindered, they are, in effect, saying they have no desire to have fellowship with the Lord and Head of the church.

Every church member has an obligation to support the church with his prayers. This too, involves more than just getting up in church sometimes and singing off a little ditty in the pretence of praying. Mind you, I am not making light of folk that do not pray long and eloquent prayers (Continued on page 3, column 1)

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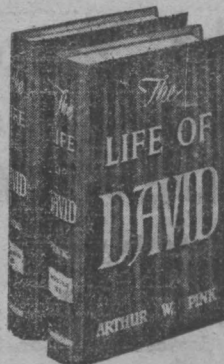
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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

SEPTEMBER 4, 1965

PAGE TWO



## WORKS

By  
C. H.  
SPURGEON

most confident that God has heard me out of His holy hill and that He is giving you folk the greatest Conference you have ever attended and the effects of which will eventually be felt around the world.

Every church member has an obligation to support the Lord's church proportionately as God has blessed him and what ever that be it can be no less than a tenth. I have noticed with great interest that when God saves one of these New Guinea natives one of the first things he wants to do is start giving of his meager means to help reach some other lost soul with the gospel. Of course lots of these folk have never had a dime in their life but those that do out give the American in proportion to what they have, many times over. The Tanggi Baptist Church (first church we organized here) has been supporting 3 full time missionaries for over a year now besides sometimes giving offerings to help the Solomon Island work. I say without hesitation that not only every Christian, though they more especially, but every individual will be held accountable to God for the tithe. The tithe of ALL the land is the Lord's. The Lord's exact words are, "And all the tithe of the land . . . is the Lord's." Lev. 27:30.

Brethren when I say that saved folk ought to be interested in their church I mean that they ought to be interested enough to find out what is right and then stand for what they believe. Nothing irritates me more than to see a professing Baptist afraid or ashamed to take a stand for what he says he believes to be right. Brethren let us face the facts, either the Catholics and all of her off spring are either right in what they are trying to propagate or else we Baptists are. Where do you stand today? Are you afraid to take the same stand and consequently face the same consequences as our Baptist forefathers did? If so you are not worthy to wear the name Baptist. I do not say that one has to belong to a Baptist Church in order to go to Heaven but I say that one must believe what Baptists do about salvation before he can get to Heaven. The Bible teaches us that salvation is wholly of grace apart from any works. I have carefully studied numerous organizations that call themselves Christians and churches of the Lord, and I have yet to find one of them but what teaches works either wholly or in part for salvation. Do you think that I am going to claim kin to such heretical organizations as this. It is often said that Christians should stop fighting among themselves and fight the common enemy. Brother I say when a man stops fighting it is either because he has been overcome by his foe or else he has nothing to fight for. To me, this is about the weakest statement that a man of any denomination can make and for a professing Baptist to say that, is in effect, the same as saying that he has turned "Judas," insofar as his Baptist beliefs are concerned.

People ought to be interested in their church enough to contend for church authority for baptism and any other thing that is done by and through the church. I have noticed in the past year the discussions pro and con in regards to church authority especially for baptism and the one illustration that seemingly has come up more often than any other is the case of Philip baptizing the Ethiopian eunuch. It is contended by those that deny church authority that Philip had no church authority and was doing free lance baptizing, and therefore if he could baptize without church authority then no church authority is needed today. I am surprised and somewhat disappointed at the answers some of our otherwise stalwart Baptists give in reply to this assertion. Most of them say "he had special authority, he had Holy Spirit authority, therefore he had authority from God. This of course would give him authority from God and I am willing to admit that if God so chose to operate this way that would be quite sufficient either for then or now.

However, it just so happens that God has not chosen to operate that way, then or now. "I am the Lord, I change not." Mal. 3:6. "Unto Him be glory IN THE CHURCH," Eph. 3:21. Beloved, I do not believe for one minute that the Holy Spirit stepped out-

### HISTORY OF BAPTISTS

By  
G. H. Orchard  
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This is a concise history of Baptists from the time of Christ, their founder, to the eighteenth century, taken from the New Testament, the first fathers, early writers, and historians of all ages.

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side of the church, the place where Christ is to get glory, for this one time and gave Philip special authority to baptize that Ethiopian. Some of the very men sitting in this Conference today have taught me that God will not cause a thing to be written in His Word in one place and then turn around and teach just the opposite in another. As mentioned before, I do not believe that the Holy Spirit would cause Paul to say in one place that it is in the church that Christ is to receive glory and then come along and give Philip special authority to baptize one man. The truth is this. Philip was a member of a Baptist Church at the time. He was a deacon and being a man full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom Act 6:3, the Lord called him to preach, Acts 8:40. In Acts 21:8 he is called Philip the evangelist. A. T. Robertson says of Philip, that the Greek renders him as being a traveling missionary, "gospelizing" communities. Now there is no question in my mind as to who had been authorized to evangelize, baptize, and teach the all things. Christ had given that to His church. Therefore, Philip being a member of a Baptist Church called of the Lord to preach, sent by the Holy Spirit to do missionary work, he was authorized by the church of which he was a member to do the work the Lord had called him to do, which included evangelizing, baptizing, and teaching the saved. When I was called of the Lord to do exactly the same

## Please Note . . .

When you wish to write to Missionary Fred Halliman, do so at this address:

Elder Fred T. Halliman,  
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When you wish to send money relative to the mission work of Brother Fred Halliman, in New Guinea, please send it to this address:

Macedonia Baptist Church,  
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Chicago, Illinois

type of work in New Guinea that Philip was doing in Samaria, Philistia, and around his own home in Caesarea, the Macedonia Baptist Church, Chicago, Illinois, gave me church authority to go to New Guinea and preach the gospel and when folk became saved to baptize them. It does not make any difference whether it be one or the 73 that I baptized at one baptizing not too long ago that authority holds and I do not have to run back to the church and get new authority every time I need to baptize someone. Philip had the very same authority, i.e. from the Lord's church, and when he found it necessary to baptize the Ethiopian eunuch he did not have to ask the Holy Spirit for special authority for he already had all the authority he needed. But if someone is thinking, "The church did not vote on that fellow to receive him into their membership, yes they did, when they voted to give Philip the missionary, authority to go out and evangelize and baptize at the same time they voted to receive into their membership every individual whom Philip judged to be worthy to receive baptism.

Well brethren, I have not forgotten the general rules of a Bible Conference, i.e. that every man is allotted a certain portion of the time if all are to be heard, and while I would like to continue on discussing the Lord's church I will leave the rest of that to you and try to tell you something of the work here before you drop the boom on me. To be honest with you this work has astonished me in its growth. As mentioned in TBE one time before, I sometimes hesitate to give you folk back there the full report for fear of being misunderstood or some thinking that I have turned Arminian, but think what you may God knows my heart and my practices. Also it is not to be forgotten that I labored a few years here doing nothing but planting the seeds of the gospel — without any harvest.

We have at present, on this is-

land, 1 main station and 21 outstations. Two of these outstations are no longer just missions but they have been organized into churches so we now have three churches organized. Sixteen out of these 22 places have Christians, the largest number of Christians at any one place being 131. In all I have between 400 and 500 waiting to be baptized, some of them will be baptized before too long and some it will be quite a while yet.

At the Mission Station where we organized the first church, most of these Christians are well grounded in the Word of God. It makes me happy to be able to sit down and talk to many of these folk about such doctrines as election, depravity, the various aspects of sovereign grace and the doctrine of the Lord's church, including church authority, etc. There is not another group of Christians, black or white, on this entire island that you could sit down and talk to like you can these and expect to hold a Scripturally sound conversation with them. Most professing native Christians that I have talked to over here know nothing above the childrens Bible story when it comes to the Bible. In the many Christians that we have God has given us 12 to help us preach and teach the Word. For these we are most grateful for without them we would only be able to do a small portion of the work that we do now. None of these can read the Bible for themselves and have to depend entirely upon my teaching for their messages. Of course I am not leaving God out of it for without Him none of us could preach. Like any other 12 preachers that you might get together, some of these are above average, and some just fair, but whatever their calling they all have a work to do and a place to fill in God's eternal plan.

One of our places which has three preaching points and is about 3 days walk from where we live is reaching the critical stage. There are many Christians there and it will link up with another (Continued on page 5, column 1)

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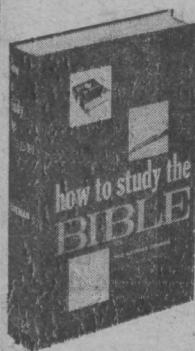
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# The Baptist Examiner FORUM

*"What is the purpose of preaching the gospel to those who are not saved."*

This question could be answered in four words. Because God commands it. I shall take more space and say the same thing by showing you where and how He commands it. God not only elected those who would be saved, He also elected the means whereby they would be saved. "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God,

whether this reference should be used in an authoritative manner since it is not in some of the older manuscripts, still Mt. 28:19 says practically the same thing. Our authorized version says, "Teach all nations," but most other translations say "Make disciples of all nations." Paul gives a good example in Acts 20:20 where we see him teaching (or preaching) from house to house. He was commanded to be a witness unto "all men," Acts 22:15.

God has His reason for telling us to preach the gospel to every creature. And when we preach the gospel to every creature it has the effect on every creature that God wants it to have. Just as the same sunshine that will melt butter will also harden clay, so in like fashion the same gospel that will break the stony heart of a lost sheep will also harden the heart of a non-elect. In I Tim. 6:12 we learn that we are called unto eternal life, and in 2 Thes. 2:14 we learn that we are called by the gospel. And it is all because "it pleased God by

it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." (I Cor. 1:21) You see it pleased God to use preaching. He does not leave it up to the preacher to do the saving however. "Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase." I Cor. 3:5-7.

The preacher is not to preach just anything, because there is only one thing that God uses to bring salvation. "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." Rom. 1:16. This gospel alone is not enough — the Spirit of God must work with the Gospel. "But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ," II Thes. 2:13, 14.

Why preach to the lost. Because God saves the lost. His Spirit uses the preaching of the gospel and applies it to the heart of the lost and they believe.

You have, no doubt, heard men say "If I knew who the elect were, I would preach only to them." But, in the light of the Scriptures, would we be justified in preaching only to the elect if we could know who they were? Most certainly not. We are told to preach the gospel to every creature, Mk. 16:15. And while I am aware of the fact that there is some doubt as to

discussion with a Hardshell Baptist once and I said to him, "The trouble with you Hardshells is that you do not believe in the sovereignty of God." He bristled and said, "If there is anything in the world we do believe in, it is the sovereignty of God." "What is a sovereign?" I asked. He said, "A sovereign is a ruler or as we would say a boss." I replied, "You

Acts. 17:25.

Nor do I believe that through the preaching of the Gospel, I can add to the number that God has elected unto salvation. None will be saved except those who were elected unto salvation from before the foundation of the world. Furthermore I do not believe that our failure to preach the Gospel will cause God to erase one name from the book of life.

In preaching the Gospel to the lost, we are not prompted by the belief that God has done all that. He is going to do for the sinner, and the rest is up to man. God must draw the sinner to Himself. He must and will intercede for them. Also He must keep them and bring them into glory, for salvation from start to finish is of the Lord.

The purpose in preaching the Gospel is that the quickened sinner must hear this Gospel in order to believe on Jesus Christ. It is my firm belief that no sinner does or can hear the Gospel until he has been quickened by the Holy Spirit, or until he has been given a spiritual ear with which to hear the Gospel.

"The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the Lord hath made even both of them." Prov. 20:12.

Until the Lord makes within the unsaved hearing ears, they

don't believe in the sovereignty of God, for your boss tells you to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, but you Hardshells refuse to do it, and moreover you are actively opposed to missions."

2—GOD ORDAINS THE MEANS AS WELL AS THE END. He has ordained that the gospel is His means of reaching His elect. "The gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." It is my business to preach the gospel. It is God's business to use that gospel as He pleases. Election has always been my chief encouragement in preaching, and I have always preached as if every lost person in my audience was among the elect. So far as I know they are—who the elect are is God's business, and immediately I begin to meddle into God's business I get into trouble. I always have the encouragement to know when I preach that "as many as were ordained to eternal life" will believe.

3—In God's infinite plan he has made us FELLOW WORKERS WITH HIMSELF. Our preaching, witnessing, labors are a part of the means that God uses in calling an elect people out of the world, and He will richly reward us for our labors. The poor old Hardshell is like the man with the pound, who went and hid it in the earth and did nothing. Through all my years in the ministry I have used every means possible to get the gospel before the lost. At one time I ran a paper, held a busy pastorate, and preached over fifteen radio stations—all in the effort to make Christ known to as many as possible. Hundreds of people have professed conversion under these efforts, and the lives of many have proven the genuineness of their profession. Paul said, "I endure all things for the elect's sake, that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory." Paul's purpose in preaching was that God might use his efforts to call out His elect. Every man's purpose ought to be the same.

The purpose in preaching the Gospel to those who are not saved is that the Gospel is the means used in the hands of the Holy Spirit whereby God calls to Himself those whom He has elected unto salvation. In preaching the Gospel to the lost, I do not mean to infer the Gospel is the agent in regeneration, for the Holy Spirit is always the agent in salvation but He uses the Gospel to create within the quickened sinner repentance and faith.

In preaching the Gospel to the lost man I do not mean to infer, that I must help God do His work. My Lord does not need our help in the realm of regeneration, anymore than He needed help in creating this world.

"Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things."

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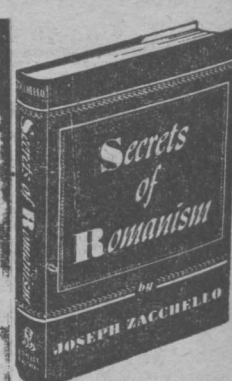
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from God's point of view that election always precedes the calling, but from our point of view the calling through the Gospel is simply the evidence from the Holy Spirit that I am one of those whom He has quickened and therefore am one of the children of God, through God's elective work of a sovereign God.

Belief of the Gospel by the sinner is not the cause of regeneration, but rather the evidence that we are the children of God. "For unto you it is given in behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake." Phil. 1:29.

"Devil, Unconverted"  
(Continued from page 1)

people try to handle the problem of their garbage. They try to get rid of their garbage, even if they have to make an attempt to put it off on somebody else.

I wonder, beloved, if you and I don't have a problem so far as our spiritual garbage is concerned, but it is even greater. When I speak about our spiritual garbage, I am talking about the sin that confronts every one of us. We read:

"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 ALL together become FILTHY: there is NONE that DOETH GOOD, no, not one."—Ps. 14:2, 3.

"For ALL HAVE SINNED, and come short of the glory of God."

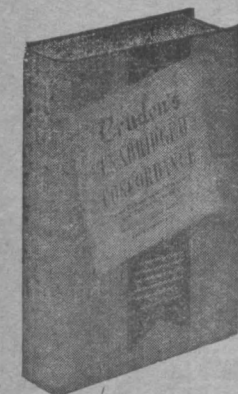
—Rom. 3:23.  
"But the scripture hath concluded ALL UNDER SIN, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe."—Gal. 3:22.

In the light of these verses beloved, I say that every one of us are sinners. We are perturbed and we are preplexed over the problem of our human garbage, our human sin, and how we will be able to handle it. I often think of this problem of the sin of our flesh. We might accuse some-

(Continued on page 6, column 1)

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# Statements Of Great Bible Scholars As To Meaning Of The Word "Church"

**H. CARROLL:**  
The whole of the modern Baptist church of a now existent 'universal, invisible church' was borrowed from the confessions of faith in Reformation times, and the Pedobaptists devised it to offset the equal error of the Romanist 'universal visible church.' We need to be well indoctrinated on this point, for the error is not harmless. It is used to depreciate Christ's earthly church, 'the pillar and ground of the truth.' (On Ephesians, page 166).

**THUR W. PINK:**  
Now the kind of church which is emphasized in the N. T. is neither universal nor local; but instead, it is local and local. The Greek word for 'church' is 'ecclesia,' and those who use anything of that language are not to be confused with the 'assembly.' Now an 'assembly' is a company of people who actually assemble. If they never 'assemble,' then it is a misuse of language to call them an 'assembly.' Therefore, as all of the people never have yet assembled together, there is today no 'universal church' or 'assembly.' (In the Scriptures, Dec. 1965).

**E. B. THOMAS:**  
A Church universal, composed of all the churches, is a functional point of view in the Scriptures. And how could an in-

distinguishable, unrecognizable company of God's elect, the invisible Church, serve either the one purpose of a church or the other. A perverted ecclesia is, to borrow Paul's phraseology, no ecclesia." (Church and Kingdom, page 275).

**T. T. EATON:**  
"In every one of the 21 instances (excluding Mt. 16:18) in which Christ uses the word ecclesia, there can be no question that He meant the local assembly. The probabilities, therefore, are twenty-one to nothing that He meant local assembly in Matthew 16:18 — the passage which, for the sake of the argument, we set aside as doubtful. A probability of twenty-one to nothing is a certainty. Hence, it is certain that Christ meant the local assembly when He said: 'Upon this rock I will build my church.'" (Western Recorder editorial, quoted in My Church by J. B. Moody, page 71).

**J. R. GRAVES:**  
"I have shown that the idea of a great Universal Invisible Church, or a Visible Universal Church, composed of all the visible churches, or, as some claim, of all baptized, independent of local churches, can not, by any fair exegesis, be found." (Intercommunion, page 138).  
Graves says the universal invisible church theory "was a conception of after ages, and gave rise to the Greek and Roman Hierarchies, and Baptists can not stand too clear of it." (Ibid, page 137).

**H. B. TAYLOR:**  
"The two essential ideas in the word ekklesia are assembly and organization. Every illustration of a church in the New Testament, such as temple or house or body, makes the veriest nonsense, if it is not assembled and organized. The etymology of the word ekklesia makes it of necessity a local church." (Why Be A Baptist? page 47).

**THOMAS ARMITAGE:**  
Armitage was not a very sound Baptist, nevertheless he said: "In the apostolic age the church was a local body, and each church was independent of every other church. The simple term ecclesia designates one congregation, or organized assembly, this being its literal and primal meaning. . . . It follows, then, that the New Testament nowhere speaks of the 'Universal, Catholic, or Invisible Church,' as indicating a merely ideal existence, separate from a real and local body. . . . A local church fully expresses the meaning of the word 'ecclesia' wherever it is found in Holy Writ." (History of Baptists, pp. 118-120).

**S. H. FORD:**  
"It should be remembered that by church, Baptists mean what the New Testament teaches — a local, real congregation of baptized believers united together for God's service." (Brief Baptist History, page 95).

**Fred T. Halliman**  
(Continued from page 3)  
I expect to open the area that I expect to open shortly and we have no person to send to them. Due to the pace and my other commitments here in this immediate area, I can only visit them occasionally. The native missionary has been there ever since we opened the area about a year ago. Now has done a marvelous job of preaching the Gospel, but not capable of doing much more than straight evangelistic work. They now have many saved and need other teaching now. Reports come from the Solomons Islands, where we opened work back in February, that there is blessing in that work also. There are only 4 baptized believers but recently I had a letter there saying that 5 had been baptized in one service and there been a few more along. I know how many Christians there are now. I think they have 4 places where services are held. There are two workers there at that work. Recently I have had a letter from requesting that I visit them as soon as possible and assist them in opening up some new areas — also to strengthen them in the faith. We are hoping that it might be possible

for me to go visit them again in October, though this is only a tentative date.

Along with my other duties I am trying to build a house. I have quit calling it "Our house" as I used to, for at the rate I am going I may never get it finished in time to live in it, so I just refer to it now as "a" house. It has been a great discouragement to me in that I have not been able to do any more on building it than I have. I began to prepare materials, make plans, etc. nearly 3 years ago to get the house up, and up to now I only have reached the stage of having the floor joists down and part of the wall plates laid out. It seems that I no more than get started than I have to stop and do something else. There are the supplies that I have to continually watch and that takes up a considerable amount of my time attending to that as we are 15 miles away from the airstrip. Every time I have to go to the airstrip to meet a plane I lose practically the entire day. The last plane load of supplies that we had come in I lost 6 days. The plane was scheduled to come out on a certain day and for 5 consecutive days something happened that it could not get out; on the sixth day it made it. This is a sample of what I go through with con-

tinually. One of these days though I expect to have the house up and either us or someone else will enjoy it.

Well brethren, I have told you about the work in general up to this point and now I will try to tell you something about my plans for the next month to six weeks. At the time this is being heard at the Bible Conference and you are seated comfortably enjoying the messages, your family and friends, I will have been gone from my family for just about a month, walking over mountains and through jungles to try to reach a people that have never heard the gospel.

I have written about the Strickland River area two or three times and the most of you there at least have some idea about what I have previously had to say about this area. As has been mentioned before, I have made two previous attempts to get to this area without success. The Lord willing I will start my third attempt in about two more days. I plan to leave the station and cross the mountain into the Levani Valley and retrace my second attempt. I will spend about a week in the Levani Valley and then start up the Muller Mountain Range. I have been up this mountain range several times and know what it is like. Believe me when I say that I am not looking forward to this portion of the journey. After I have climbed the range for several days, stopping occasionally and preaching, I will once again attempt to cross another mountain range that will bring me to the Strickland River gorge. Very little is known of this part of New Guinea. Insofar as I know there has been only one Government patrol into the area. The Patrol Officer at Koroba, has, like myself, made two attempts to reach the place but the elements of nature plus a few other things have driven him back. If I am successful this time in reaching the Strickland I will be the first white man that has ever been successful enough to get in

from this end. The jungle undergrowth is so thick that on a cloudy day it is almost completely dark at 3 p.m. This kind of ministry brethren is quite a contrast to what you are used to, but it is the kind our Lord has called me to do.

Since little is known about the area, less is known about the people that live there. It is not expected that very many will be found, though the one Government Patrol Officer that did get in from the upper end of the Strickland says there could well be upwards of 500 people there. I flew over the area one day in a small aircraft but visibility was not the best that day and I could not make a fair estimate of the place or population. From what I could see though the population looked scarce and the country the most rugged that I have ever flown over. The people that live on the far side of the Strickland are known to be cannibals, but it is not known, as yet, whether the folk that live on this side of it are or not—I'll probably be able to answer that in about three weeks from now. How long I will spend in the area after I get there, if indeed I do, I do not know now. That will depend upon what I find after I get there, how my supplies hold out, the welfare of my native carriers, how the people receive me, and how I feel led of the Lord. By the time we reach the Strickland River we will have dropped about 3,500 feet in altitude. The carriers that will be going with me are folk that are used to a cool vigorous climate with very little malaria. That area will be filled with malaria plus many other tropical diseases that are not encountered here where we live. I expect to have about 30 carriers with me. Most naturally we will take a good supply of medicine along with us to try to take care of any sickness.

When we have finished exploring and surveying this area I expect to turn back North and eventually wind up at a place called Yeddo where we have an out-station, this is about 4 days walk from home. If food is available here we will spend about 2 or 3 days and then move on another day's walk closer to home where we have a fairly large work and here we will spend probably a week or more preaching and teaching the Word of God.

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Well as you can see there is not too much that I can tell you about this trip now, either as to the length of it or the results but the trip could well be up to or over 6 weeks from the time I leave home until I get back. In any case I expect to be still out at the time you hear this at the Bible Conference. Would it be asking too much for you brothers and sisters to join in a moment of prayer for me and my family? Once I leave the Levani Valley which is one day's walk from our mission, I will have no more contact with my family or the outside world until I am almost back home, other than a small short wave receiving set that I will have with me. After I have returned from this trip I will send in a report of it to TBE. I also expect to take quite a bit of film while out and perhaps will have some worthwhile pictures to let you see. I have tried in some small way to let you see New Guinea through my eyes since being here.

One thing more I would like to ask you preacher brethren at the Conference. Do not let these messages die that you have heard at this Conference, but go back to your churches and preach them over and over again until your people know them by heart. Maybe one of these days I will be able to join some of you brethren in another Bible Conference, but be that as it may (Continued on page 8, column 5)

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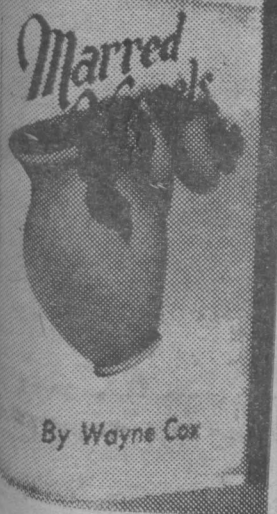
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## "Devil, Unconverted"

(Continued from page four)  
body else of being responsible for our present condition. We might make excuses relative to it. We might try to cover it over, as did Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. However, this problem of our human garbage, our sin problem, remains a problem. In this respect, the Devil continually leads us, and directs us, and drives us on in a deceiving way from day to day.

### I THERE IS A DEVIL.

There are a lot of people who don't believe in the Devil. However, Job introduces us to the Devil when we read:

"And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it."—Job 1:6.

Here the Devil is talking unto the Lord as to where he had come from. He told the Lord he had been going to and fro in the earth, and had been walking up and down in it. I think this would give to us an indication in a very definite way that there is a personal Devil within this world.

Also we find the Apostle Paul saying:

"And no marvel; for SATAN HIMSELF is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."—II Cor. 14, 15.

This would indicate that there is a Devil, that he works as an angel of light, and that he has his preachers who do his work, and carry out his wishes.

I find Peter saying:

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary THE DEVIL, as a roaring lion, WALKETH ABOUT seeking whom he may devour."—I Pet. 5:8.

This is in contrast to II Corinthians 11:4, for Paul refers to the Devil as "an angel of light," whereas Peter refers to him as "a roaring lion." I am sure that sometimes the Devil goes about as a roaring lion, but I know that most often he comes to us as an angel of light. In the majority of instances, he presents his temptations as an angel of light, rather than as a roaring lion.

That you might see there is a personal devil here in this world, and that he shall remain here until the final day, we read:

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the DEVIL, and Satan, and BOUND HIM a thousand years. And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years

should be fulfilled; and after that he must be loosed a little season."—Rev. 20:1-3.

These verses tell us that there is a devil, and in the last days, he is going to be arrested by an angel of God, and is going to be cast down into the bottomless pit for a thousand years; after that he is to be loosed for a little season. The last part of this 20th chapter tells us how definitely the Devil is going to be cast into Hell.

Now from these Scriptures, beloved, you are brought face to face with the fact that there is a devil, and I say to you, I believe in the devil. I don't mean to say that I believe in him, like I believe in God, but I will say that there is a being at the head of the spiritual forces of evil called the Devil, that is just as personal as the Being at the head of the spiritual forces of good, whom we know as God.

As the poet has said:

"Men don't believe in a Devil now  
As our fathers used to do;  
They've forced the door of the broadest creed  
To let his majesty through.  
There isn't a print of his stealthy foot,  
Or a fiery dart from his bow  
To be found in earth, or air today,  
For the world has voted it so.

But who is mixing the fatal draught  
That palsies both heart and brain.  
And loads the bier of each passing year  
With ten hundred thousand slain?  
Who blights the bloom of the land today  
With fiery breath of Hell?  
If the Devil isn't and never was,  
Won't somebody rise and tell?

Who clogs the step of the toiling saint,  
And digs the pit for his feet?  
Who sows the tares in the field of time  
Wherever God sows His wheat?  
The Devil is voted not to be,  
And of course they think it's true;  
But who is doing the kind of work  
That the Devil alone should do?

We are told he does not go about  
As a roaring lion now;  
But whom shall we hold responsible  
For the everlasting row  
To be heard in Home, in Church,  
in State  
To the earth's remotest bound,  
If the Devil by a unanimous vote  
Is nowhere to be found?

Won't somebody step to the front forthwith  
And make his bow, and show  
How the frauds and crimes of a single day  
Spring up? We want to know.  
The Devil was fairly voted out;  
And they claim the Devil's gone;  
But simple folk would like to

know  
Who carries his business on."

Beloved, I say to you, I believe in the Devil.

### II THE DEVIL HAS POWER OVER MAN.

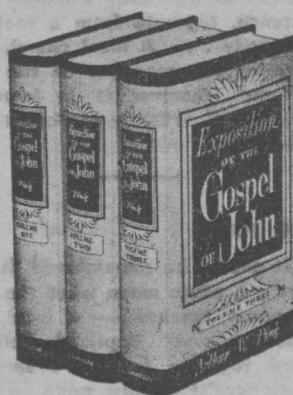
We read:

"And you hath he quickened, who WERE DEAD in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, ACCORDING TO THE PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."—Eph. 2:1-3.

Paul was talking to the Ephesian Christians. He told them that before they were saved they were

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dead in trespasses and sins, and that they walked according to the "prince of the power of the air." That is to say, these Ephesian Christians did exactly what the Devil wanted them to do.

I have often observed a puppet show. I remember when I was just a boy going to a little show which came through the community where I lived, and one feature of it was a Punch and Judy act. I remember how I was impressed with that show because of the part of Punch and Judy, since they did, and said, exactly what the individuals in charge, wanted them to do. I have observed other puppet shows down through the years, and I have often thought that every unsaved person is just exactly like those puppets. These Ephesian Christians were helpless victims of Satan before they were saved, and everyone that is unsaved is like these Ephesians—he is helpless before the time that God saves him. In other words, he is a helpless victim before the Devil.

I am satisfied that the Devil makes some people to be just as good as is consistent with what he wants them to do, and at the same time he makes some people just as bad as he requires that they shall be. There isn't a doubt in my mind that the Devil uses a great number of preachers from Sunday to Sunday to carry on his work. There isn't one doubt in my mind that he takes good moral men and uses them in the

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pulpit Sunday after Sunday to deceive and lead far astray. At the same time, I am satisfied that he calls on some people to drink, and to gamble, and to sin, not to an excess, and that he leads still others to be just as filthy, and putrid, and immoral as he wants them to be. Beloved, the same devil that causes one man to be good to carry out his purposes, causes another man to be evil like him, that his purposes shall be accomplished.

So I say, beloved, the Devil has power over men. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself tells us that this is so. Listen:

"Ye are of your father the devil, and THE LUSTS OF YOUR FATHER YE WILL DO."—John 8:44.

Jesus plainly says that this crowd was doing the things the Devil wanted them to do.

Notice again:

"And we know that we are of God, and the whole world LIETH IN WICKEDNESS."—I John 5:19.

Literally, this says that the whole world lieth in the hand of the wicked one.

Beloved, I say that every unsaved man is just a puppet in the hand of the wicked one. If the Devil wants that one to be a good moral character, he will make him so; if he wants him to be an immoral scoundrel, he will make him to be just that. I am convinced that men are doing exactly what the Devil wants them to do.

I might say that I have absolutely no use in this world for Martin "Lucifer" King. At the same time, I realize that M. L. K. does exactly what his spiritual daddy directs him to do. Some people would say, "Brother Gilpin, why would you say he was an unsaved man?" Well, in the first place, a man that doesn't believe in the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ is undoubtedly an unsaved man." Well, in the second place, a man that is a member of some 60-odd Communist or red-front organizations, has to be an unsaved man, for a man could not be a Communist and a child of God. In view of that, I have no use nor respect for him. I say he does exactly what his spiritual daddy directs he shall do.

Beloved, if you go out tomorrow and some unsaved man is kind to you, the Devil has led him to do that very thing. Or if tomorrow some unsaved man "takes a crack" at your nose, you can know that he did so because the Devil has directed him to do it. I tell you, the Devil has power over men, and the men in this world before they are saved, are just exactly like the Ephesian Christians who were under the power of the Devil, and who did exactly as the Devil directed them to do.

### III

## WHY DON'T MEN REALIZE THE DEVIL'S GRIP AND INFLUENCE BEHIND PERSONAL AND NATIONAL PROBLEMS?

I ask, why in our personal life and our national life men don't realize the power that the Devil has concerning them? I'll answer it in three ways:

First of all, men don't realize the Devil's grip because they have been made blind by the Devil. They can't see spiritual

truth because the Devil has blinded them. Listen:

"In whom the GOD OF THIS WORLD HATH BLINDED the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."—II Cor. 4:4.

Listen, beloved, the reason we don't realize the Devil's grip and influence is because they have been made blind.

I was reading of recent years concerning a leading astronomer whose business is to study the stars, how he said: "I have scanned the heavens for years and I have never seen God." Now is it that this man writes as he does, and why is it that he makes the statement that he did—he has never seen God, though he has been scanning the heavens for years with a telescope? I tell you why; because the Devil has made that man blind.

I was impressed, after the two astronauts from Russia made their flight into space, how, when they came back to earth, some body asked them if they had seen any evidences of God out in space. Beloved, they said that they had failed to find the slightest trace of God in outer space.

Beloved, why is it that we can't see God? It is because we are blind, for only a blind man would fail to see evidence of God. And who has blinded them? The Devil has blinded the unsaved people of this world.

Oh, how blind the unsaved are! You walk out on the street and converse with every man you meet, and you will find that they are blind first to their own sin, in the second place they are blind to the wonders of salvation, in the third place, they are blind to the certainty of judgment, and a man is blinded as to his sin. (Continued on page 7, column 2)

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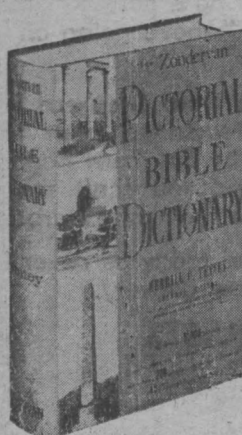
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## Evil, Unconverted"

continued from page six)  
need, if a man is blind- to the wonders of salvation, a man is blinded as to the of the coming judg- could he be more blind? every man that is out- of the Lord Jesus Christ is in these three ways.

talk to a man about sal- and his need of Jesus yet he feels no need of the of God in any wise at all. talk to him about the won- of salvation, how marvelous that God saves us by the of Jesus Christ on the cross he will get that far away in his eye, and will say that understand how one man and pay the sin debt of elect of Adam's race. you talk to him about his personal experience, and his of the Lord Jesus Christ, he shrugs it off and pushes into the distance, to be at some other day. Only man would fail to see his and would fail to see the wonders of salvation, and fail to see the certainty of coming judgment. That is that the Devil retains and influence over men. why it is that the Devil men in his grip and under no. They are slaves of the because he has blinded and they are blind to spir- its.

second reason why men school, I saw another man hyp-

don't realize the Devil's grip and influence is that the Devil puts wicked purposes in men's hearts every day. No man ever got a wicked purpose except the Devil put that purpose there.

Take, for example, the experi- ence of Ananias when he lied about the money for which he had sold his land. The Word of God tells us that Ananias did that because the Devil put it in his heart to do so. Listen:

"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.

Notice, it was the Devil who had put it into Ananias's heart to do as he did.

Let's look at Judas, who be- trayed our Lord. How did he get that wicked purpose of betraying Jesus? Beloved, it was the Devil who put it there. Listen:

"And supper being ended, the DEVIL HAVING NOW PUT IN- TO THE HEART of Judas Iscar- iot, Simon's son, to betray him." — John 13:2.

I insist that just as the Devil put the purpose of lying to the Holy Spirit in Ananias, and just as the Devil put the purpose of betraying the Lord Jesus Christ into the heart of Judas, so the Devil puts wicked purposes into the hearts of men and women to- day. That is why the unsaved don't break the grip, and that is why the unsaved are under the influence of the Devil. Beloved, he puts wicked purposes into their hearts.

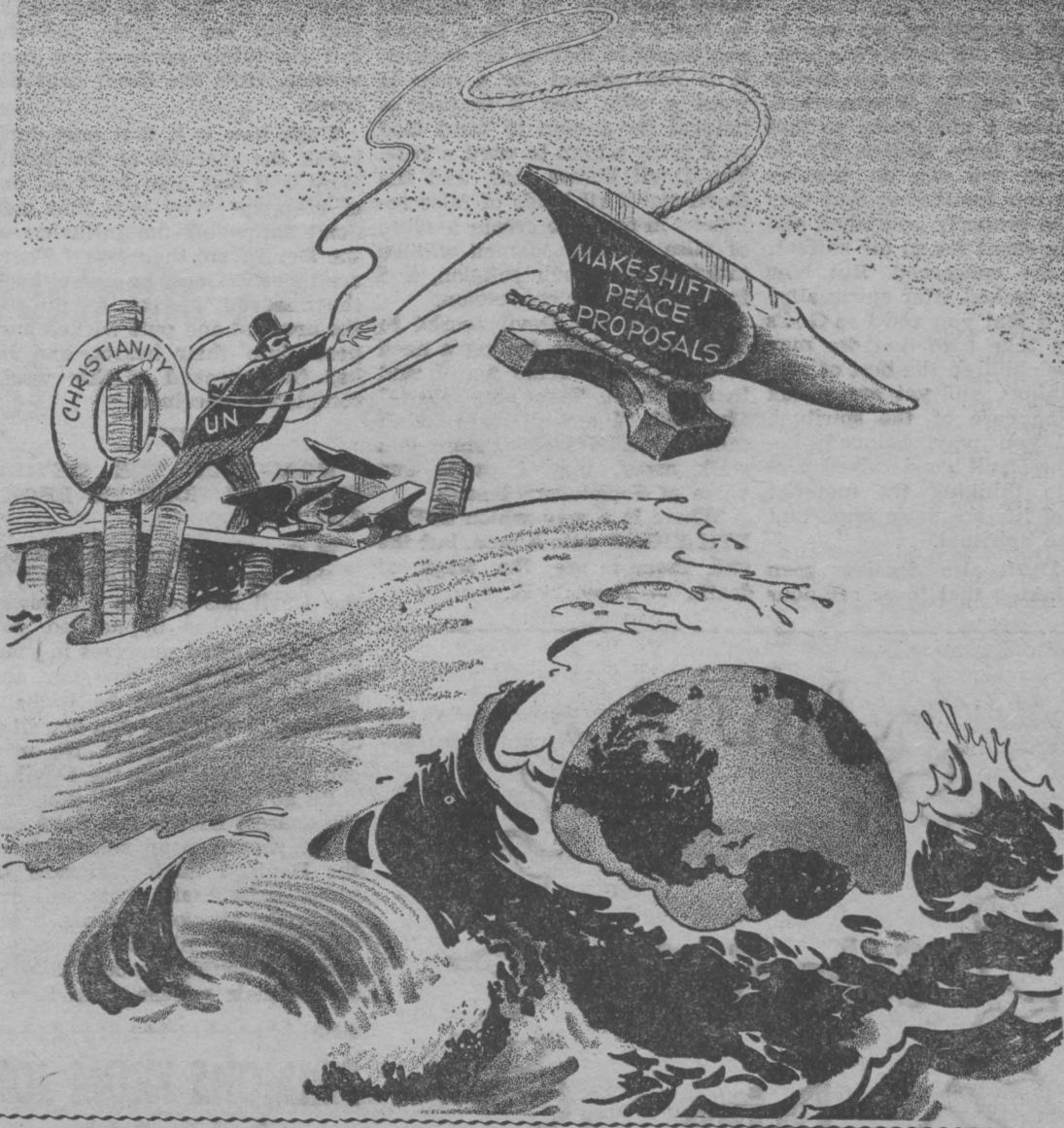
Did you ever see anybody that was hypnotized? Sometime ago I saw a woman who was hypno- tized and she was told that an empty vat, which looked some- thing like a baptizing pool—that that empty vat was filled with ice water and that if she stepped into it, it would virtually freeze her body. Then they commanded her to step into it. Though the steps were there, and though the vat was entirely empty and devoid of all water, she couldn't go down into it because she said that the water was so cold she couldn't stand touching her toes to the water. Why? Because she was hypnotized.

When I was in college, in a psychology class one day, the pro- fessor hypnotized one of the girl students in the class. When she was in a state of hypnosis, he said, "Now when I snap my fin- gers you will come back to nor- malcy, and after you do, you are to walk all around this room and then go up to the front of the class and write your name on the blackboard. He went ahead with the experiment and when, some fifteen minutes later, he snapped his finger, this girl blinked her eyes, stood up, and then walked all around the room, went up front and wrote her name on the blackboard, and then went back and sat down. I talked to her after class and she said that it was the craziest thing she ever did, and that she didn't under- stand why she did it, but she just had to go up there and write her name on that blackboard. She was hypnotized.

Years ago, when I was in high

## THERE'S AN APPOINTED PRESERVER

"NEITHER IS THERE SALVATION IN ANY OTHER: FOR THERE IS NONE OTHER NAME UNDER HEAVEN GIVEN AMONG MEN WHEREBY WE MUST BE SAVED."  
— ACTS 4:12



notized. After he was put in a state of hypnosis, the man that was conducting the show said, "Now look at those bumblebees coming — a whole swarm of them. They are on you." That poor boy fought those bumble- bees for some four or five min- utes for the amusement of every- body that was in the show, but to that individual that was hyp- notized, it was real, though there was not a bee around him. Why did he do this? Because he was hypnotized.

Beloved, that is exactly what the Devil has done to the unsaved people of this world. The Devil has every unsaved man safely in a state of hypnosis, and he puts wicked purposes into the hearts of those who are his. I often see people do things I know that they ought not do, and things that they realize they shouldn't do, and I say, why don't they rebel against the Devil, and why don't they break his influence? I'll tell you why they don't, beloved. He has blinded them, and he puts wicked purposes into their hearts.

A third reason why the un- saved don't break the Devil's grip is that they are deceived. We read:

"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which DE- CEIVETH THE WHOLE WORLD: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." — Rev. 12:9.

What is the Devil's business? Beloved, he is in the business of deceiving the whole world.

If you will go back to the third chapter of Genesis you will find that the Devil deceived Eve. To be sure, it was Satan that came with the temptation, although so far as Eve was concerned, it was a snake that crawled in the gar- den and brought a temptation to her, and deceived her. Actually, it was the Devil impersonating the serpent, and Eve was defini- tely deceived of the Devil. Lis- ten:

"And Adam was not deceived, but THE WOMAN BEING DE-

CEIVED was, in the transgres- sion." — I Tim. 2:14.

Adam sinned with his eyes wide open. He knew what hap- pened, but Eve was deceived. Be- loved that is the way the Devil works, for he is a deceiver.

When the Apostle Paul was giving us a picture of the last days, he said:

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse, and worse, DE- CEIVING, AND BEING DECEIV- ED." — II Tim. 3:13.

Beloved, it is the Devil that deceives us, and how does he de- ceive? He deceives first of all by making people think that exter- nal happiness is the same as in- ternal joy. Many a man is de- ceived by thinking external hap- piness is the same thing that we know as an inner joy that comes from the Holy Spirit. Many in- dividuals go on non-stop entertain- ment, and keep going from one form of entertainment to another. Each one thinks he is going to satisfy himself, but, beloved, it doesn't bring lasting joy. We read:

"But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." — I Tim. 5:6.

Beloved, the Devil deceives people by making them think their external happiness is the same thing that God gives them after He saves them.

Another way that the Devil de-

ceives is by making men think that knowledge about the uni- verse is more important than an experience with God. In days gone by, everybody believed in God. In times past, men knew about God, even if they didn't know about the universe. Today we know more and more about this world, and less and less about the God who made this world. Why? Because the Devil has de- ceived them into thinking that their knowledge of this world is worth more than an experience with God in Heaven. Now let me show you how that works.

Sometimes Christian fathers and mothers will be deceived in this respect, in that they will sac- rifice everything to see that their children get an education, and yet keep their children away from the house of God for the slightest pretext in this world. Why? They have been deceived into thinking that a knowledge of this world is more important than an experience with Almighty God. And who has deceived them? The Devil.

Again, the Devil has deceived men into thinking that the ma- terial things of life are more im- portant than the spiritual. We think it wouldn't be good busi- ness to go out and talk to an un- saved man, losing time from our work. Why? Because we have

(Continued on page 8, column 1)

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## "Devil, Unconverted"

(Continued from page 7)  
been deceived into thinking that the material things of this world are more important than the spiritual.

We do everything we can to take care of our family's education. We provide for our family so far as clothing is concerned. We provide a nice home so that they might have shelter. We do everything we can to provide food for our families so that they might be properly nourished and properly cared for so far as their bodies are concerned. But how are they looked after spiritually? Why is it that you and I as God's children take care that we may give our children the best of material things, and yet are so lax in taking care of the spiritual. I'll tell you why, beloved; because the Devil has deceived people into thinking the material things of life are more important than the spiritual.

The Devil also deceives men into thinking that to be religious

is all that is sufficient.

I was just thinking this last week that it is natural for a man to want a wife. As much as you may say about your wife in joking about all the difficulties she brings to you, if God were to remove her from you, it wouldn't be but a very short time before you would be looking for another. It is just natural for a man to want a wife, and it is just as natural for a man to want God as it is for a man to want a wife. The Devil knows that, and the Devil starts all kinds of false religions in order to create a sense of false security so men will be satisfied with their religion, and feel no need for conversion.

Oh, how the Devil works to keep people from feeling a need of conversion! Years ago I said to a woman, "Are you saved?" She said, "I am all right; don't talk to me." I said, "Before you walk away, may I quote one verse of Scripture?" I said:

"There is a way which SEEMETH RIGHT unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." — Prov. 14:12.

Beloved, that verse went home and some months later God saved that woman. She finally realized that all she had to do was to trust Jesus, but she had tried to shut off the Lord Jesus Christ. Why? Because the Devil had her deceived in that she was satisfied with her religion and she felt absolutely no need for conversion. How the Devil does deceive!

I ask how is it that men don't break the shackles of the Devil? Why is it that men don't get out of his grip? Why is it that men don't throw off the influence of the Devil from their lives? There are three reasons: he has blinded the unsaved, he has hypnotized the unsaved and puts wicked purposes into their hearts, and he has the unsaved of this world completely deceived.

### IV

#### HOW CAN THE DEVIL'S STRANGLE HOLD BE BROKEN?

If the Devil has you blinded, if the Devil has you deceived, if the Devil has you in his power in that he has hypnotized you and put wicked purposes in your heart, I ask you, how can the Devil's stranglehold be broken? Beloved, I will give you one simple answer: you can't. No man can break free from the Devil.

I'll go further and tell you that the dearest friends you have can never secure your release from the Devil. I think just now of some individuals that are exceedingly precious to me, some that I would like to see saved, and if I could, I would like to secure their release from Satan.

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Beloved, as the man himself can't break free from the strangle hold of the Devil, so neither can I break the grip that the Devil has upon that individual.

How, then, can the power of Satan be broken. I'll tell you how. It can only be as a sovereign act of an Almighty God. Beloved, if God in His sovereignty and His omnipotence doesn't break the strangle hold of the Devil upon an individual, that man will go on, and on, and on, eventually into a Devil's Hell. We read:

"If the SON THEREFORE SHALL MAKE YOU FREE, ye shall be free indeed." — John 8:36.

"Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS, THERE IS LIBERTY." — II Cor. 3:17.

"WHO HATH DELIVERED US FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son." — Col. 1:13.

How did we get out of the power of darkness? How do we get into God's kingdom? Beloved, there has to be a translation. God has to translate us. In other

words, the strangle hold of the Devil has to be broken by a sovereign act of a sovereign Almighty God.

The Apostle Paul tells of his own experience, and he says:

"To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and FROM THE POWER OF SATAN UNTO GOD, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." — Acts 26:18.

Paul was the agent, but it was God that had to turn them from the power of Satan unto Himself.

Listen again:  
"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" — Heb. 9:14.

Beloved, it takes a power outside yourself. You can never free yourself from the power of the Devil. Your dearest loved ones and friends can never free you from the Devil. But thanks be unto God, Jesus Christ came down to this world for one purpose — that He might purge your conscience from dead works to serve a living God. I tell you, it takes the sovereign act of Almighty God to break the power of Satan, and to set the sinner free.

May God bless you, and may God break that power in your life, and may God save your soul.

#### Church Government

(Continued from page 1)  
tion concerning the restoration of this man (II Cor. 2:6) he speaks of his punishment as having been inflicted by "many," literally, the greater part or majority. This distinctly implies that the church was democratic in the exclusion of the man. It was not done by the elders, nor by the deacons, but by the many or the majority.

5. The Selection of Traveling Companions for Paul.

Cf. I Cor. 16:3; II Cor. 8:19,23. Paul recognized the right of the churches to have their own representatives accompany him in his travels among the churches in making up the offering for the saints at Jerusalem. We, no doubt, have these "messengers of the churches" mentioned in Acts 20:4. Thus Paul was not a lord over God's heritage, but recognized their right of self-government. He speaks of these brethren as having been selected of the churches. This implies that the churches acted as bodies in their selection. They were not appointed by the elders. The only way a church can act as a body is by some method of voting. Any proper method of voting is an expression of democracy.

6. The Duty and Responsibility of the Whole Church to—

(1) Maintain Unity of Action. See Rom. 12:16; I Cor. 1:10; II Cor. 13:11; Eph. 4:3; Phil. 1:27; all.

I Pet. 3:8. Strong very justly marks on these passages that they are not "mere counsels of passive submission, such as might be given under a hierarchy, to the members of a society of the Jesuits; they are counsels of cooperation and to harmonious judgment."

(2) Preserve Pure Doctrine and Practice.

I Tim. 3:15; Jude 3. See also the exhortations of the church in Rev. 2 and 3.

(3) Guard the Ordinances. I Cor. 11:2, 23, 24.

And we may conclude by saying that in no instance in the New Testament do we see the church contradicted.

(From "A Systematic Study of Bible Doctrine" by Simmons)

#### J. B. Jeter

(Continued from page one)  
The scholarly, old-school Presbyterian preacher slowly raised his hand and pronounced the benediction. Mrs. Jeter soon came a Baptist. She said that her pastor was one of the most scholarly Presbyterian preachers in the South. If he could not do infant baptism in the Bible, it must not be there. If infant baptism was not in the Bible, had never been baptized, for infant baptism was all she had heard. With an open Bible she was led to the truth and obeyed her Lord in baptism.

The Bible was written to man. Baptists and it will do the work in every regenerate heart if it will only read it and obey it.

—From "Why Be a Baptist?" by H. B. Taylor

#### Catholics . . . Forget

will he do? He turns to the judge and says, "Your honor, it aggravates the wounds if prosecuting attorney reviews sordid past. Let's just forget and I'll go out to coffee with chief of police." — The Gospel Witness

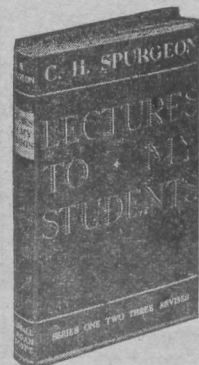
#### Fred T. Halliman

(Continued from page 5)  
I have an appointment with you of you one of these days in the great beyond where trials and heartaches and the cares of the world have passed away, where we shall spend an eternity of bliss and happiness in the presence of God our Father. This Annual Bible Conference more rugged mountain ranges me to climb and no more and unknown Strickland areas filled with savage cannibals for someone to roam and the good news of the Prince of Peace, but instead there will be the river of life, clear as crystal proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. Brethren, we pray for you daily and have asked God in a special way to make this the most glorious Bible Conference you have ever attended at Ashland. May God bless you.

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