

The Baptist Examiner

The Baptist Paper for the Baptist People.

JOHN R. GILPIN.....Editor

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May we ask those who have placed orders with us to be patient, knowing that their copy will be mailed just as soon as we can possibly complete the job.

The Kind Of Letter We Like To Get

Dear Bro. Gilpin:

Though we have never met I feel "I know" you in Christ by the truth you preach, not only in the pulpit, but by the printed page, namely The Baptist Examiner. The Lord willing I'm going to attend your next Bible Conference. I would love to shake your hand in fellowship of the truth, as well as all the other fine brethren who attend it.

Yours in Christ,
Warren Clark (Colorado)

"God Of This World"

(Continued from page one) in the lake of fire that burns forever and ever.

I

THE GOD OF THIS WORLD.

As I think of this, I came to my text which tells us about the god of this world. I presume that if I were to ask the average man as to whom the god of this world is, that I'd get a false answer from the majority of people with

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whom I would talk. I could walk out on the street tonight and ask the first dozen men that I meet who is the god of this world, and they would say the God of the Bible. I am satisfied that the majority of people feel that the god of this world is the Jehovah God whom you and I worship. But, beloved, the god of this world is not the God that I worship. The god of this world is not the God that I preach to you from Sunday to Sunday. The god of this world is none other than the Devil himself. Listen:

"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 1:7.

You'll notice that the Devil's place of habitat, his place of work, and his place of ministry is in this world, and that he goes to and fro in the earth, and walks up and down in it.

Notice again:

"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." — Eph. 2:2.

"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world; he was CAST OUT INTO THE EARTH, and his angels were cast out with him." — Rev. 12:9.

So I say, beloved, when we talk about the god of this world, it is not the God of the Bible. It is not Jehovah. It is not the God that I preach to you, but the god that is spoken of in my text is none other than the Devil himself.

I recognize the fact that the majority of people today don't believe in the Devil. When I was just a boy preacher as pastor in Cincinnati, Ohio, several years ago, I baptized three sisters in their teens. After the baptismal service the next Sunday, one of the girls came to me and said, "Brother Gilpin, is it true that there is a Devil, or is it just somebody that we blame our meanness on?" Well, beloved friends, I am sure that girl in her ignorance is just exactly like the people in this world, for the majority of folk doubt the existence of the Devil.

As the poet has said:

"Men don't believe in a devil now
As our fathers used to do;
They have forced the door of
the broadest creed,
To let his form pass through.

There isn't a print of his cloven
foot.

Nor a fiery dart from his bow
To be found in earth or in air
today

For the world has voted so.

But who is mixing this fatal
draught

That palsies both heart and
brain,

And loads the bier of each
passing year

With ten hundred thousand
slain?

Who clogs the steps 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?

Ah, the Devil is voted not to be,
And of course the thing is true,
But who is doing the kind of
work

The Devil alone should do?

They say he does not go about
Like a roaring lion now,
But whom shall we hold
responsible

For the everlasting row—

To be heard in home, in church,
in state,

To earth's remotest bounds,

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

DECEMBER 4, 1965

PAGE TWO

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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.

Ah, the Devil is fairly voted out,
And of course the Devil's gone;

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But simple folk would like to
know—

Who carries his business on."

Beloved, I come back to my text and speak to you as one of those simple folk who believe the Book from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21 — I stand to say that the god of this world is none other than the Devil that is described throughout the length and breadth of the Word of God.

II

WHAT HAS HE DONE?

My text tells what it is that the Devil has done, for it says that he "hath blinded the minds of them which believe not." Every time I read this I say, is it possible that a man could be guilty of blinding any individual? Down at Greenup several years ago a woman threw a bottle of acid in another woman's face, and put out her eye-sight. Could it be possible that an individual would be so depraved that she would blind another?

I turn to the Word of God and read of Sampson of whom it is said that when the Philistines had captured him they put out his eyes. Listen:

"But the Philistines took him, and PUT OUT HIS EYES, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house." — Judges 16:21.

Now the words "put out" as applied to his eyes do not at all describe as the original language does, for the original language says that they "bored out" his eyes. Just as you would take a brace and bit, or an auger, and drill a hole in a wall, so the Philistines bored out the eyes of this man Sampson. I say, can it be possible that those Philistines were so depraved that they bored out the eyes of this man Sampson, and thus blinded him?

I turn a little further in the Word of God, and read the story of the last and final deportation of the Jews to Babylon, when Nebuchadnezzar carried the final group of them unto Babylon. Zedekiah was the king at Jerusalem. When Nebuchadnezzar had taken possession of the city of Jerusalem, he called the sons of Zedekiah to stand in the presence of King Zedekiah, and then had every one of the sons put to death, so that Zedekiah saw his sons put to death before his very eyes. As they wallowed in their own blood in death, Zedekiah looked for the last time upon any thing in this world. For the Word of God says that the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, bored or gouged out the eyes of Zedekiah. I ask, can any man be so depraved as to kill a man's sons, and allow him to see his sons wallow in death for the last thing that he shall ever see within this world and then to have his eyes gouged out afterward?

I think of Sampson, and I think of Zedekiah, and I come to my text, and I say that what happened in the case of Sampson was just the case of one man, and what happened in the case of Zedekiah was just one man, but what happened so far as the Devil is concerned was the entire non-elect of the whole human family, for he hath blinded the eyes of them that believe not.

Oh, is it possible for us with our finite minds to grasp the truth, that as these two, Sampson and Zedekiah, had their eyes bored out individually, the Devil has done the very same thing spiritually to all the non-elect within the human family, to the extent that everyone who believes not, has had his spiritual eyes destroyed.

We read:

"That at that time we were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world." — Eph. 2:12.

"Having the understanding DARKENED, being alienated from the life of God through the

CHASTISEMENT PROOF OF LOVE

Mr. Rutherford, writing to a lady who had lost five children and her husband, says to her, "Oh, how Christ must love you! He would take every bit of your heart to Himself. He would not permit you to reserve any of your soul for any earthly thing." Can we stand that test? Can we let all go for His sake?

III

THE BIBLE ALWAYS RIGHT

If my compass always points to the north, I know how to use it; but if it veers to other points of the compass, and I am to judge out of my own mind whether it is right or not, I am well without the thing as with it. If my Bible is right always, it will lead me right, and as I believe it is so, I shall follow it.

IV

Appreciated Letter

Dear Bro. Gilpin:

The most blessed moment of my life certainly was Nov. 28, 1951 when God spoke life to me by revealing Jesus Christ as my sin bearer, substitute and surety.

Possibly the most profitable blessing since that time was when Bro. T. P. Simmons recommended to me that I subscribe to The Baptist Examiner which I did.

Another great blessing was when one day I received an issue of TBE and there in the upper left corner was the word "LIFE" just as in 1951 I had been given life by the Grace or unmerited favor of the Sovereign of the Universe. So on this day I had been shown unmerited favor and the word "life" spelled it out to me.

Although I have not shown much appreciation to the donor for this favor, I really do appreciate and thank God for it.

Enclosed is a small gift (\$15.00) for which let's thank God and please pray for me and request the church to do the same.

By Eternal Grace,

Ted Holliday, Va.

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ignorance that is in them, because of the BLINDNESS of their heart." — Eph. 4:18.

Why is it that men today turn away from God? Why is it that men are alienated from the life of God? Why is it that men are aliens from the commonwealth of Israel? Why is it that individuals are strangers from the covenants of promise? Just one answer — the blindness of their hearts. So I say, beloved, the god of this world has blinded the minds of them that believe not.

V

WHOM DOES HE BLIND?

We have our answer to this question in the words of my text: "The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not." Beloved, the unsaved of this world are those who are blind. Listen:

"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and won- (Continued on page 3, column 1)

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HEAVEN HAS A WAY IN—
BUT NO WAY OUT.

"God of This World"

(Continued from page 2)

ers; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." — Mt. 24:24.

I say to you, it isn't possible that the elect shall be deceived. I turn to the book of Revelation and find the story of the anti-Christ. Notice:

"And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast; and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them; and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." — Rev. 13:4-8.

Who is it that worships the antichrist, beloved? It is the man who doesn't have his name in the Lamb's book of life. It is the man who never did have his name written in the Lamb's book of life from the foundation of the world. Beloved, the Devil blinds the unsaved. He blinds the non-Christ. He blinds those who are children of God. He blinds them so they cannot see the gospel of Jesus Christ.

It is rather interesting to notice how the Devil does blind people, and how blindness is so manifest today. I think of LBJ. I am not talking about his ranch now, but I am thinking of the man. This program that he has espoused to the world when he says that there is no reason for having poverty — that we'll do away with poverty, yet if LBJ had ever read the first principles of the Word of God he would have found that Jesus Christ said, "The poor you have with you always." Beloved, I say that regardless and irrespective of all the proposed plans that come out of Washington, the poor will always be here within this world.

Then I think of his proposal so far as Medicare is concerned, that he is going to lengthen the life span to the extent that we shall live 100 to 200 years, and I am reminded that the Bible says the days of our years are three score and ten, and occasionally God gives us four score years, but even that extra ten years is but sorrow and trouble, so far as this life is concerned. I am saying that it is only because LBJ has been blinded by the Devil that he would propose plans contrary to the statements of the Word of God.

I think of the proposal that has been offered of recent date that the next ticket so far as the Democratic party is concerned, is that of Humphrey and King. I speak of Martin Luther King. Can you imagine the time to ever come when we will be called upon to vote for a Communist like Humphrey and a nigger (I didn't say Negro) like Martin Luther King? Beloved, I am saying to you, so far as I am personally concerned, the Devil has blinded the minds the people and only a blind man will go along with a policy like that.

I think of the moon race between Russia and the United States — to see who is going to get to the moon first. Do you realize that neither one has any business there? Do you realize that neither Russia nor the United States has one bit of business on the moon? The fact of the matter is, man has made such a mess of this earth, I don't see why man would want to go to the moon, to mess it up too. We read:

"The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's; but the earth hath he given to the children of men." — Psa. 115:16.

Man's domain is this earth and the heavens are the Lord's, and whenever man tries to get out into space, he is getting off of man's domain into God's domain. I am saying, beloved, the Devil has just blinded the people of this world.

I'll go further and remind you when graduation times comes at the end of a school year, that the one general theme you'll hear in every graduation exercise is that those who are graduating are to make the world a better place in which to live, yet there is nothing that could be farther from the truth as revealed in the Word of God, because God has already said:

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." — II Tim. 3:13.

Don't talk to me about making this world a better place in which to live. This world will go right on getting worse and worse and worse. It is only a deception of the Devil, for he has blinded people into thinking that they can make this world a better place in which to live.

I have been going to high school graduations ever since I was a boy, and I have been hearing them talk about making the world a better place in which to live. I ask you, how much better is America today than it was ten years ago? How much better is it than it was twenty, or thirty, or forty, or fifty years ago when you were a child? You know the answer — that the world is getting worse, and is going to Hell in high gear. The educators talk about making the world a better place in which to live. I'll tell you why. Because the god of this world has blinded them.

There is a general trend to

abolish capital punishment. May I say, beloved, in passing that I am a firm believer in capital punishment. I believe the Word of God teaches that capital punishment is to be carried out. I find in the Bible that there are 22 sins that God says are punishable by capital punishment. In other words, there are 22 sins that God says men are to die for if they participate in, or commit those sins, yet there is a wave on today all over the country to do away with capital punishment.

A few years ago the state of West Virginia said that it is barbaric to hang a man — that they would not hang anybody else. Just a few days ago the Legislature in West Virginia went further and said that it was barbaric to put anybody to death, and they did away with capital punishment. The same thing is on in Kentucky — a wave today that is headed up by even our Governor to do away with capital punishment. I tell you, beloved, it is a definite repudiation of the Word of God. I ask, why do men talk thus? It is because they have been blinded by the god of this world.

The Word of God speaks about how the Jews have been blinded. Listen:

"But their MINDS WERE BLINDED; for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ." — II Cor. 3:14.

I think of the Jews. Oh, how blind they are to the things of God today! Every once in a while I am thrown with some man of Jewish descent and strange as it may seem, I feel so kindly toward that individual, because I realize that there is a veil over his heart that will never be removed until Jesus Christ shines through, and that veil is torn aside. Beloved, whenever you see a Jew, pity him, because he has been blinded by the god of this world. He thinks in terms of dollars and cents. He thinks in terms of yardage. He thinks in terms of what he can get out of you, whereby he can give you the least for what he gets. I am saying to you, the Jew is blind.

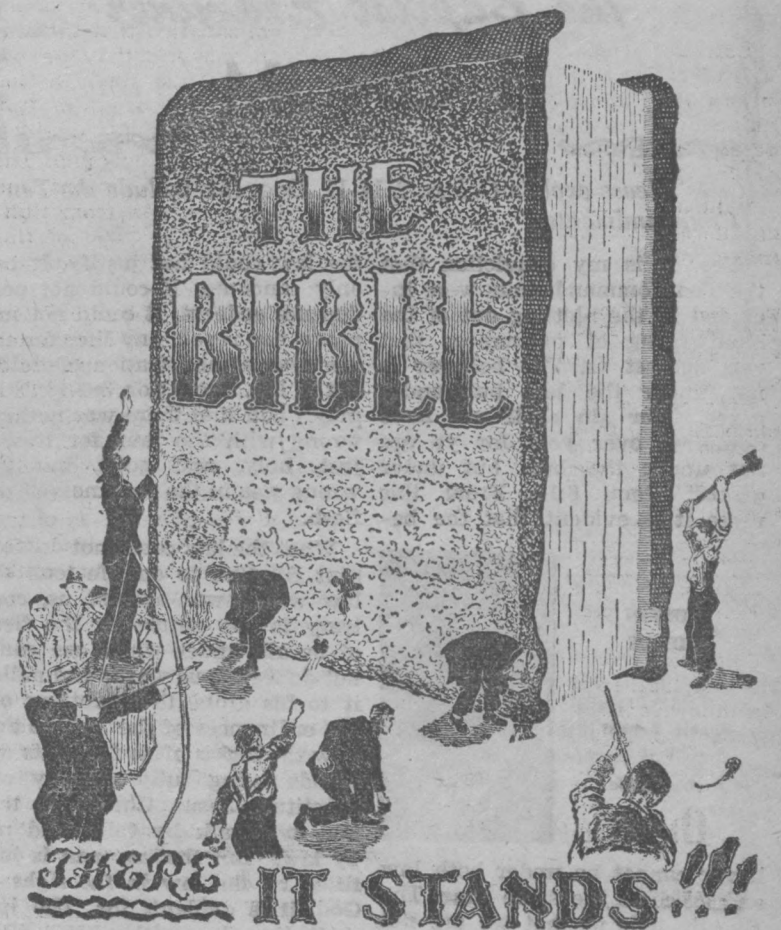
Beloved, I think how blind they are, and until that veil is taken away from their heart, they'll continue in their blindness. How did that veil get there? The Devil has a blind over their eyes.

Then I think about the crowd who, every time they go to church, baptize themselves with so-called holy water and make a sign of the cross. Surely there could be no blinder group all over the world than that. One of them was telling me just this past week about the priest and what powers the priest had. He told me how the pope, and all the priests that had descended down the line from the pope — how that all of them are the successors of the Lord Jesus Christ. Beloved, listen:

"But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an UNCHANGEABLE PRIESTHOOD." — Heb. 7:24.

This is referring to the Lord Jesus Christ and it says that He has an unchangeable priesthood. The word "unchangeable" means that He has a priesthood that is not transferred from one to another. He has a priesthood that never is abrogated. He has a priesthood that will continue on throughout all the ages to come. In the light of this verse of Scripture, the man who talks about the pope being able to come between a soul and God, is blinded by the Devil.

A short time ago, another Catholic, who is the outstanding Catholic, I judge, within this town, was talking in terms of suffering. Of course you know that Catholics believe the more you suffer in this world, the better your chances are for he next world; the more penance you do



in this life, the better opportunity you have, to have less suffering and less penance to be done after you leave this life. Within the last few weeks I was talking with this man and he was repeating again how he would rather suffer a little, and have hardships now and then, because it meant that he was getting closer unto the Lord. I thought how blind can a man be, to think that through his suffering and his pain, he'll be able to enter into Heaven. It is not the suffering of the individual, but it is the suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ whereby we'll have an abundant entrance into Heaven.

This same individual went on to tell me how that Mary intercedes for us, and how, if a mother would ask the Son to do something, he would come nearer doing it than if you were to ask Him direct; therefore, when we come to pray, we ought to pray to Mary, and Mary in turn will ask her Son to be gracious unto us. Beloved, the Word of God says:

"For there is one God, and ONE MEDIATOR between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." — I Tim. 2:5.

The only mediator we have is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. How blind that man is!

Then I think of the Methodists who talk in terms of falling from grace — something that they know nothing at all about, for the majority of them have never known what the grace of God really is. I think how they try to work for their salvation, and add their works onto the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. How blind can they be!

About 25 years ago I went to the hospital one night to visit a woman I had known for quite some time, who was sick and was to be operated on the next day for a tumor. She was so worried and burdened that night, lest she might not pull through the operation. As I sat there and talked with her, I tried to read her God's Word, but it brought no comfort. Finally, I said, "Sister, you must be satisfied. You must feel secure in Him." "Oh, no," she said. "I have worked and cleaned the church, and fed preachers, and I have entertained preachers, and I have done thousands of things, but I don't have any assurance of my salvation." Of course, she didn't believe, because you can't have assurance if you are depending upon your own works, instead of the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. I think how blind that poor soul was — 75 years of age, one foot in the grave, and the other one fast slipping, and so blind that she

was still looking to her works and her guilt shows, instead of looking to the finished work of Jesus Christ.

I think of the Campbellites. I don't know whether I am getting weak toward the Campbellites or just what is happening, but we are having a lot of Campbellites subscribe to THE BAPTIST EXAMINER and it makes me feel like maybe I am weakening so far as they are concerned. There is one that lives in Florida that has been a reader of TBE for over 20 years. He comes to this area once a year, and every time he always comes to see me, and he boasts of the fact that my sermons in TBE furnish him much sermonic material to build his sermons around. Sunday after Sunday. Anyhow, as I think of them, I go back and remember how I used to go to a Campbellite Church as a boy, and I can hear them now as they would say, "You go down into the water and you meet the blood in the water. If you want to see your Saviour, look at the water."

Beloved, I say to you, if you want to see your Saviour, don't look at the water, but look to Calvary where Jesus Christ died. How blind can men be! How blind that crowd must be to talk about their Saviour being in the water!

I'll never forget the night down at Russell, Kentucky, several years ago when a Campbellite preacher took a man and stood him on one side of the baptism and said, "Here you see an unsaved sinner." Then he led him down into the baptism and baptized him and brought him out on the other side, and said, "There you see his saviour," and he pointed back to the pool of water.

Brother, sister, my Saviour does not stand waist deep in the water, but my Saviour hangs on (Continued on page 6, column 4)

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The Baptist Examiner FORUM

"Please explain Coloss. 2:14-17. Does this include the Ten Commandments?"

Yes. It is my conviction that the Ten Commandments were included in the blotting out of the handwriting of ordinances that was against us. The believer is not under the law but under grace. "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace." Rom. 6:14. From this verse it is evident that the be-

the law could not justify. It can only condemn. It could not pardon nor redeem. It could not improve nor repair any life, for the law was a ministration of death, not of life. See 2 Cor. 3:6-18. Now may I add that there was nothing wrong with the law, for it was just, holy, and good, but the wrong was in the weakness of the flesh.

What the law could not do, God sent His Son to do. He took the law which was against us, contrary to the nature or the flesh of us all, under which we could not do righteous works and nailed it to his cross, thus blotting out the ordinances of the law, so that now the law is of no force, its demands being fully met by our substitute Jesus Christ, so that now we walk by faith and not by law. "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. AND THE LAW IS NOT OF FAITH: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them." Gal. 3:11-12.

The work of Jesus Christ for his people was so complete that He triumphed over all powers and principalities that were against His people. This included Satan and all the principalities of Hell, and all the powers of darkness, so that as of now the believer is free, the ransom has been paid, and the law fulfilled and done away with.

Now as the result of the work of Jesus Christ for me I walk by faith, and not by the law, for I am now dead to the law through the body of Christ.

"For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God." Gal. 2:19.

The Apostle tells us in this verse that he is dead, and his death came about as the result of the law, or as he states it, through the law. The law which demanded the death of its violators put the Apostle Paul to death. We know that the Apostle did not die himself, that is pay the penalty of the law in his own body, but rather through the death of Jesus Christ, the law put him to death.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live." Gal. 2:20.

If the believer is dead to the law, then the law which put him to death could not touch him anymore. The reason that the law cannot touch the believer is that all of its ordinances and its demands were met in full by our Redeemer — thus we are free from the law, and all of its demands.

Now that I am free from the law, no man can judge me in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days. Cf. Col. 2:16. The law which would have judged me in respect to meat, drink, holydays, new moon, and sabbath days, has been blotted out, torn to shreds through the nails that pierced the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. Oh, what a blessing it is to know that the law and all of its rituals were completely fulfilled in Christ, and that now it holds no terror for me.

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." Jn. 8:36.

This passage is speaking mainly of the law in general and includes the Ten Commandments. It does not teach that we are no longer morally responsible for the law. As a Christian we should live closer than ever to God's law. It does teach that we are not under the penalty of the law.

"But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore

the law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster."—Gal. 3:23-25.

We are told that "... sin is the

JAMES
HOBBS

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transgression of the law." I John 3:4. We are also told that "... the wages of sin is death ..." Rom 6:23. When we are saved we are freed from this penalty. "For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter." Rom. 7:5,6.

Verse 15 is simply speaking of the powers of darkness. He is victor over the devil and this was shown in the resurrection.

Verse 16 and 17 tells us that we are not to be judged or tried by the things we do as much as by what we are through Jesus Christ. These things are done in order to picture those things that are yet to come. In other words the material things of the law are not to be held against us in respect to our relationship to Christ.

ROY
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Going back into the chapter we are told that we are complete in Christ. (v. 10). That certainly means that no commandment and no ordinance and no observance of any kind must be added to make us complete. The Judaizers of that day wanted to add to faith in Christ the keeping of the Law, together with the keeping of certain "days." Paul tells us here that the whole Law system finds complete satisfaction in Christ's death — is "nailed to his cross." As he expresses it elsewhere, "Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness unto every one that believeth."

Since he has been speaking particularly of various observances closely connected with the Law, Paul says, "Let no man judge you in meat or drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days." Note that "days" is in italics, which means it has been supplied by the translator. So, the passage, really says, "Let no man judge you in ... the SABBATH." Adventists don't like this, but evidently one of the "ordinances blotted out ... nailed to the cross" was the sabbath. Specifically then, one of the Ten Commandments is mentioned as nailed to the cross, and if that is true, then surely the others go along with it. To sum up, the Christian is not under the Law, but under grace. Following salvation we are to seek to "do all things whatsoever Jesus has commanded," and that makes for a more scrupulous life than that of any mere "law keeper."

Yes, the Scripture before us includes the Ten Commandments and every other commandment

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found in the Bible. In verse 13 we find that Christ has quickened us, that is, He has made us alive, "For He has forgiven us all our sins," New English version. The Phillips version says, "He has forgiven you all our sins: Christ has utterly wiped out the damning evidence of broken laws and commandments which always hung over our heads, and has completely annulled it by nailing it over His own head on the cross."

To be sure, it is a sin to break one of the Ten Commandments just as it is a sin to break any other commandment our Lord gave us. But, thanks be unto Him, He has forgiven us "ALL" our sins. David was guilty of adultery and murder. Noah was guilty of drunkenness, and Lot was guilty of drunkenness and of committing fornication with his own daughters. Abraham was guilty of lying, and E. G. Cook is

E. G.
COOK

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guilty of so many awful sins in the sight of God. But, our precious Lord took the damning evidence, the handwriting (that is, the bond, note, mortgage) that hung over our heads and nailed it over His own precious head on the cruel tree. And, so far as our eternal destiny is concerned, there is absolutely no evidence to show that we (the Lord's people) ever committed a sin. He burned the mortgage, so to speak. Praise His Holy name.

Yes, I know there are those who say that if they believed as we do, they would paint the town red. Well my friend, if you have the desire to paint the town red, you might as well go ahead and do it. You are already guilty of it anyway. Our Lord said, "Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." So, in like manner, He would say that he who looked on the town and desires to paint it red has painted it red already in his heart. So if you desire to paint the town red, just get your paint and brush and get busy. But please remember this, if you are a born-again child of His, you will find the paint to be very dear, or expensive. I assure you it will cost you more than it is worth.

How Big ... God?

(Continued from page 1)

The next question that some dear soul will ask, "Are the heathen lost?" I will not try to answer any more questions that might arise, rather I would say that we must appeal to revelation and not to human reason.

Beware of human illustrations and quaint sayings of people in describing God. We read in Psalm 50:21, "Thou thoughtest that I was altogether as thyself." The Almighty God is an infinite being whose greatness cannot be comprehended by us. If we could do so then He would be smaller than us. Today the theme of most radio evangelists is love. They present a sentimental love that dethrones God and for all practical purposes obligates God to save men. To the sinner probably nothing makes him less concerned about hell than this comforting word of love. The cults, the liberals, and the funnymentalists all pluck this love string.

Consider the average prayer made in a so-called Bible preaching church. What is the attitude of the person praying? Does that person try to counsel God on what He should do? (Romans 11:34). Or does he come expecting God to be a bell-hop or a Santa Claus? The popular beliefs re-

duce God to a servant where it should be that we come to God in humility, showing our dependence upon Him, seeking His will, honoring His name, and giving Him our worship.

Possibly you are in agreement with me thus far, now let me make a statement that will test whether you really want to accept a Scriptural description of God that appears next:

IF GOD DEEMED TO CAST ALL MANKIND INTO HELL, IT WOULD NOT TAKE AWAY ONE BIT FROM HIS MERCY, GRACE, OR LOVE. OR, IF GOD DEEMED TO SAVE ALL MANKIND, IT WOULD NOT ADD ONE THING TO HIS MORAL CHARACTER. GOD IS SELF-SUFFICIENT. GOD IS ABSOLUTE. GOD IS AN UNFETTERED SOVEREIGN.

GOD IS THE ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGN (over all creation).

"O Lord God of our fathers, art not Thou God in heaven? and rulest not Thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in Thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand Thee?—II Chron. 20:6.

(Dear reader, will you please explain what this verse means to you? Do you honestly accept this at face value?)

"But our God is in the heavens: He hath done whatsoever He hath pleased."—Psa. 115:3.

"Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did He in heaven, and in earth, and in the seas and all deep places."—Psa. 135:6.

"The Lord hath made all things for Himself."—Prov. 16:4.

"All nations before Him are as nothing; and they are counted less than nothing, and vanity."—Isaiah 40:17,18.

(Again my reader, how valuable is the sinner to God?)

GOD IS THE ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGN (with present active administration).

"... saith the Lord. I have withholden the rain from you, I caused it to rain."—Amos 4:6,7.

"... the Lord sent thunder and hail, and the fire ..."—Exodus 9:23.

"Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father." — Matthew 10:29. Animal realm: Ex. 9:6, I Kings 17:2-4.

"A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD DIRECTETH HIS STEPS."—Prov. 16:9.

"In Him we live, and move, and have our being."—Acts 17:28. Amongst mankind.

GOD IS THE ABSOLUTE

(Continued on page 5, column 1)

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How Big ... God?

(Continued from page 4)

EREIGN (in regards to sal-

There are many folk who will not accept all the previous Scriptures pertaining to God's rule over creation of the human race, and with an administration but the real question now comes, will they accept the absolute One in salvation?

Now is the time when we say "salvation is of the Lord" and folk start to feel uneasy, in their teeth, rebel against truth of God. In reality they utter contempt for the Lordship of Jesus Christ. They say Him to be Lord over many things but when it comes to the greatest, salvation, they refuse to accept God's sovereignty.

The fact that the Lord does not want everyone should be well accepted by Bible students. Why are they too sinful? I Timothy 1:15. Are they too stony-hearted? Ezekiel 11:19. Is it because they have so much will power and are able to resist God? 1:13, Romans 9:16, John 9:13. Was it because they had no faith? II Thess. 3:2, Eph. 2:8.

Now we come back to the very beginning of this article, "How Big Is God?" Do you want a god that fits your imagination? Do you want a god that is limited by mankind? The first sin of man was the refusal to be clay in the Potter's hands. Adam wanted to be something more — "Ye shall be as gods" — was the bait which he used to lure him to his destruction. Possibly you want to be like God. Maybe you want to be God whom He has to save why He has to save them. It is better to submit to His sovereignty and acknowledge finite limitations.

Infant Baptism

(Continued from page one) ... shall do so. But we must not let the quotation, and therefore let us return to the Book: demand, therefore, dost thou, the name of this child, renounce the Devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the flesh, so that thou wilt not follow, nor be led by them?" Answer: "I renounce all."

That is to say, on the name and of this tender infant about to be baptized, these godly people, these enlightened Christians, these promising impossibilities, renounce on behalf of this infant what they find it very hard to renounce for themselves — "all covetous desires of the world and all carnal desires of the flesh, so that thou wilt not follow, nor be led by them?"

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that they will not follow nor be led by them."

How can they harden their faces to utter such a false promise, such a mockery of renunciation, before the presence of the Father Almighty? Might not angels weep as they hear the awful promise uttered? Then in the presence of High Heaven, they profess on behalf of this child that he steadfastly believes the creed, when they know, or might pretty shrewdly judge, that the little creature is not yet a steadfast believer in anything, much less in Christ's going down into Hell.

Mark, they do not say merely that the babe shall believe the creed, but they affirm that he does; for they answer in the child's name, "All this I steadfastly believe." Not we steadfastly believe, but I, the little baby there, unconscious of all their professions and confessions of faith. In answer to the question, "Wilt thou be baptized in this faith?" they reply for the infant, "That is my desire." Surely the infant has no desire in the matter, or at the least no one has been authorized to declare any desires on his behalf.

But this is not all; for then these godly, intelligent people next promise on behalf of the infant that "he shall obediently keep all God's holy will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of his life." Now, I ask you, dear friends, you who know what true religion means, can you walk in all God's holy commandments yourselves? Dare you make this day a vow on your own part, that you would renounce the Devil and all his works, the pomps and vanities of this wicked world, and all the sinful lusts of the flesh? Dare you, before God, make such a promise as that?

You desire such holiness; you earnestly strive after it; but you look for it from God's promise, not from your own. If you dare make such vows, I doubt your knowledge of your own hearts and of the spirituality of God's law.

But even if you could do this for yourself, would you venture to make such a promise for any other person? — for the best-born infant on earth? Come, brethren, what say you? Is not your reply ready and plain? There is not room for two opinions among men determined to observe truth in all their ways and words.

I can understand a simple, ignorant rustic, who has never learned to read, doing all this at the command of a priest and under the eye of a squire. I can even understand persons doing this when the Reformation was in its dawn, and men had newly crept out of the darkness of Pope-

ry; but I cannot understand gracious, godly people standing at the font to insult the all-gracious Father with vows and promises framed upon a fiction, and involving practical falsehood. How dare intelligent believers in Christ to utter words which they know in their conscience to be wickedly aside from truth? When I shall be able to understand the process by which gracious men so accommodate their consciences, even then I shall have a confirmed belief that the God of truth never did and never will confirm a spiritual blessing of the highest order in connection with the utterance of such false promises and untruthful vows. My brethren, does it not strike you that declarations so fictitious are not likely to be connected with a new birth wrought by the Spirit of truth?

I have not done with this point: I must take another case, and suppose the sponsors and others to be ungodly; and that is no hard supposition, for many cases we know that godfathers and parents have no more thought of religion than that idolatrous hallowed stone around which they gather. When these sinners have taken their places, what are they about to say? Why, they are about to make the solemn vows I have already recounted in your hearing. Totally irreligious they are, but yet they promise for the baby what they never did, and never thought of doing, for themselves — they promise on behalf of this child, "that he will renounce the Devil and all his works, and constantly believe God's Holy Word, and obediently keep His commandments."

My brethren, do not think I speak severely here. Really, I think there is something here to make mockery for devils. Let every honest man lament that ever God's church should tolerate such a thing as this, and that there should be found gracious people who will feel grieved because I, in all kindness of heart, rebuked the atrocity. Unregenerate sinners promising for a poor babe that he shall keep all God's holy commandments, which they themselves wantonly break every day! How can anything but the long-suffering of God endure this?

What! not speak against it? The very stones in the street might cry out against the infamy of wicked men and women promising that another should renounce the Devil and all his works, while they themselves serve the Devil and do his works with greediness!

As a climax to all this, I am asked to believe that God accepts that wicked promise, and, as the result of it, regenerates that

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child. You cannot believe in regeneration by this operation, whether saints or sinners are the performers. Take them to be godly, then they are wrong for doing what their conscience must condemn; view them as ungodly, and they are wrong for promising what they know they cannot perform; and in neither case can God, accept such worship, much less infallibly append regeneration to such a baptism as this.



Lax Baptists

(Continued from page 1)

TISTS." Signed, John Clarke Ridpath.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY said, "As you are probably aware, your questions relate to one of the most disputed points in church history. Some men of weight in church history, notably the German scholar, Ludwig Keller, of Munster, would find a continuous relation between the Anabaptists of the Reformation period and individual sects like Waldenses, and through them a line of free and POSSIBLE EVANGELICAL CHURCHES, BACK TO THE EARLY DAYS OF THE CHURCH." Signed, Prof. Walker, Professor of Church History in Harvard University.

These men were leaders among the Catholics and you will notice how they refused then to answer the question of "When, where and by whom was the first Baptist Church originated?"

Beloved, let's turn the question and ask, "When, where, and by whom was the Catholic Church set up?" I will show how some lax Baptists drifted away from the truth and finally set up what is now the Roman Catholic Church which has given birth to many daughters and grand-daughters by spiritual fornication.

I

FOUR THINGS WHICH PRODUCED THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

A. The emphasizing of externals instead of internals was the first move some lax Baptists made. The externals of the true church are baptism and the Lord's Supper. These ordinances are symbols. God never changes the soul by a symbol. The real thing is used to change the soul and a symbol is a picture. Baptism is a symbol of the resurrection of Christ. (Rom. 6:5), and the Lord's Supper is a symbol of the death of Christ. (Luke 22:19-20).

God always deals with the soul. The soul is where man needs salvation. Beloved, Christ preached about the condition of the heart. He was a heart preacher. There are two kinds of sermons: heart sermons and head sermons. I hope this message gets to your heart. If the heart is changed the head will be alright. Christ said, "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil..." (Mark 7:21). This is why the New Birth is a "must" and not optional. Christ said, "Ye must be born again." (John 3:7). The New Birth is produced in the dead soul by the will of God. Many people are

trying to help God save them. How can a dead man help bring life? We are dead in sins by nature, (Eph. 2:1) and just like Lazarus was powerless, so we are powerless in the spiritual sense. Friends, is it not silly to ask a dead man to help save himself? Now when we were in this condition the Holy Spirit came into our dead souls and brought enabling and regenerating grace. John 6:44. "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:65. "And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father." Galatians 1:15, "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace." II Timothy 2:25, "In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth." This is how we are saved by the "washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost."

This is the way our old time Baptist Churches operated during the days of Christ and the Apostles. But history tells us not many years went by until some of the churches began the drift which led into the Romanist Church. *It is not to be understood that all, or even most of the doctrinal errors, which are found in later Roman Catholic history are to be found in this period. This is not the case. For example, the worship of Mary and of images, transubstantiation, the infallibility of the pope, and the immaculate conception are all of later date. The tendency was rather to lessen the demand for repentance and faith, the experimental in religion, and rather to EMPHASIZE EXTERNAL SIGNS AND SYMBOLS. IT WAS IMAGINED THAT THE OUTWARD SYMBOL COULD TAKE THE PLACE OF INWARD GRACE." (A History of the Baptists, p. 27, John T. Christian). Today we see much stress placed on the "outward" profession in most of our churches. Some churches have membership drives! Many pastors are trained in the seminaries to get (Continued on page 7, column 2)

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PAGE FIVE

"FIFTY YEARS IN THE CHURCH OF ROME"

By Charles Chiniquy
From "Fifty Years In The Church Of Rome"

The Council of Augsburg, held in 1548 (Can. 24), had declared that, "no sentence of excommunication will be passed, except for great crimes."

The Pope St. Gregory had said: "That censures are null when not inflicted for great sins or for faults which have not been clearly proved." "An unjust excommunication does not bind before God those against whom it has been hurled. But it injures only the one who has proffered it." Eccl. Laws, by Hericourt, c. xxii., No. 50.

"If an unjust sentence is pronounced against any one, he must not pay any attention to it; for, before God and His Church, an unjust sentence cannot injure anybody. Yet then, that person do nothing to get such an unjust sentence repealed, for it cannot injure him." Pope Gelasius.

The canonists conclude, from all the laws of the church on that matter, "That if a priest is unjustly interdicted or excommunicated he may continue to officiate without any fear of becoming irregular." Eccl. Laws, by Hericourt, c. xxii., No. 51.

Protected by these laws, and hundreds of others too long to enumerate, which my church had passed in every age, strengthened by the voice of my conscience, which assured me that I had done nothing to deserve to be interdicted or excommunicated; sure, besides, of the testimony brought by our four delegates that this bishop himself had declared that I was one of his best priests, that he wanted to give to me my letters to go and perform the functions of my ministry in Kahokia; above all, knowing the unanimous will of my people that I should remain with them and continue the great and good work so providentially entrusted to me in my colony, and regarding this as an indication of the Divine Will, I determined to remain, in spite of the Bishop of Chicago. All the Councils of my church were telling me that he had no power to injure me, and that all his official acts were null.

But if he were spiritually powerless against me, it was not so in temporal matters. His power and his desire to injure us had increased with his hatred, since he had our letters and seen them in all the papers of Chicago. The first thing he did was to reconcile himself to the priest Lebel, whom he had turned out ignominiously from his diocese some time before. The priest had since that

obtained a fine situation in the diocese of Michigan. He invited him to his place, and petted him several days. I felt that the reconciliation of those men meant nothing good for me. But my hope was, more than ever, that the merciful God who had protected me so many times against them, would save me again from their machinations. The air was, however, filled with the strangest rumours against me. It was said everywhere that Mr. Lebel was to bring such charges against my character that I would be sent to the penitentiary.

What were the new iniquities to be laid to my charge? No one could tell. But the few artisans and friends of the bishop, Messrs. Lebel and Spink, were jubilant and sure that I was to be forever destroyed.

At last the time arrived when the Sheriff of Kankakee had to drag me again as a criminal and a prisoner to Urbana, and deliver me into the hands of the sheriff of that city. I arrived there on the 20th of October, with my lawyers, Messrs. Osgood and Paddock, and a dozen witnesses. Mr. Abraham Lincoln had preceded me only by a few minutes from Springfield. He was in the company of Judge David Davis, since Vice-President of the United States, when I met him.

The jury having been selected and sworn, the Rev. Mr. Lebel was the first witness called to testify and say what he knew against my character. Mr. Lincoln objected to that kind of testimony, and tried to prove that Mr. Spink had no right to bring his new suit against me by attacking my character. But Judge Davis ruled that the prosecution had that right in the case that was before him. Mr. Lebel had, then, full liberty to say anything he wanted, and he availed himself of his privilege. His testimony lasted nearly an hour, and was too long to be given here. I will only say that he began by declaring that "Chiniquy was one of the vilest men of the day, that every kind of bad rumours were constantly circulating against him." He gave a good number of those rumours, though he could not positively swear if they were founded on truth or not, for he had not investigated them. But he said there was one of which he was sure, for he had authenticated it thoroughly. He expressed a great deal of apparent regret that he was forced to reveal to the world such things which were not only against the honour of Chiniquy, but, to some extent, involved the good name of a dear sister, Madame Bossey. But as he was to speak the truth before God, he could not help it — the sad truth was to be told.

"Mr. Chiniquy," he said, "had attempted to do the most infamous things with my sister, Madame Bossey. She herself has told me the whole story under oath, and she would be here to unmask the wicked man today before the whole world, if she were not forced to silence at home from a severe illness." Though every word of that story was a perjury, there was such a colour of truth and sincerity in my accuser, that his testimony fell upon me and my lawyers and all my friends as a thunderbolt. A man who has never heard such a calumny brought against him before a jury in a courthouse packed with people, composed of friends and foes, will never understand what I felt in this darkest hour of my life. My God knows the weight and the bitterness of the waves of desolation which then passed over my soul.

After that testimony was given,

there was a lull, and a most profound silence in the courtroom. All the eyes were turned upon me, and I heard many speaking of me, whispering, "The villain!" Those voices passed through my soul as poisoned arrows. Though innocent, I wished the ground would open under my feet and bring me down to the darkest abysses, to conceal me from the eyes of friends and the whole world. However, Mr. Lincoln soon interrupted the silence by addressing to Lebel such cross-questions that his testimony, in the minds of many, soon lost much of its power. And he did still more destroy the effect of his (Lebel's) false oath, when he brought my twelve witnesses, who were among the most respectable citizens of Bourbonnais, formerly the parishioners of Mr. Lebel. Those twelve gentlemen swore that Mr. Lebel was such a drunkard and vicious man, that he was so publicly my enemy on account of the many rebukes I had given to his private and public vices, that they would not believe a word of what he said, even upon his oath.

At ten p.m. the court was adjourned, to meet again the next morning, and I went to the room of Mr. Lincoln, with my two other lawyers, to confer about the morning's work. My mind was unspeakably sad. Life had never been such a burden to me as in that hour I was tempted, like Job, to curse the hour when I was born. I could see in the face of my lawyers, though they tried to conceal it, that they were also full of anxiety.

"My dear Mr. Chiniquy," said Mr. Lincoln, "though I hope, tomorrow, to destroy the testimony of Mr. Lebel against you, I must conclude that I see great dangers ahead. There is not the least doubt in my mind that every word he has said is a sworn lie; but my fear is that the jury thinks differently. I am a pretty good judge in these matters. I feel that our jurymen think that you are guilty. There is only one way to perfectly destroy the power of a false witness — it is by another direct testimony against what he has said, or by showing from his very lips that he has perjured himself. I failed to do that last night, though I have diminished, to a great extent, the force of his testimony. Can you not prove an alibi, or can you not bring witnesses who were there in the same house that day, who would flatly and directly contradict what your remorseless enemy has said against you?" I answered him: "How can I try to do such a thing when they have been shrewd enough not to fix the very date of the alleged crime against me?"

"You are correct, you are perfectly correct, Mr. Chiniquy," answered Mr. Lincoln, "as they have refused to recite the date, we cannot try that. I have never seen two such skilful rogues as those two priests. There is really a diabolical skill in the plan they have concocted for your destruction. It is evident that the bishop is at the bottom of the lot. You remember how I have forced Lebel to confess that he was now on the most friendly terms with the Bishop of Chicago, since he has become the chief of your accusers. Though I do not give up the hope of rescuing you from the hands of your enemies, I do not like to conceal from you that I have several reasons to fear that you will be declared guilty, and condemned to a heavy penalty, or to the penitentiary, though I am sure you are perfectly innocent. It is very probable that we will have to confront that sister of Lebel tomorrow. Her sickness is probably a feint, in order not to appear here except after the brother will have prepared the public mind in her favour. At all events, if she does not come, they will send some justice of the peace to get her sworn testimony, which will be more difficult to rebut than her own verbal declarations. That woman is evidently in the hand of the bishop and her broth-

er priest, ready to swear anything they order her, and I know nothing so difficult as to refute such female testimonies, particularly when they are absent from the court. The only way to be sure of a favourable verdict tomorrow is, that God Almighty would take our part and show your innocence! Go to Him and pray, for He alone can save you." Mr. Lincoln was exceedingly solemn when he addressed those words to me, and they went very deep into my soul.

(To be continued)



"God Of This World"

(Continued from page three)
the cross of Calvary. How blind that crowd is!

I think of the Arminians within Baptist ranks who know nothing whatsoever of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and who are as ignorant of the true gospel of the Son of God as is the Campbellite who depends upon his water, or the Methodist who depends upon his works, or the Catholic who depends upon his priest, or the Jew who depends upon the ritual and the rubric of the Old Testament. Beloved, the majority of Baptists are just as blind to the truth as anyone else. I believe in a God of absolute sovereignty, that that God before the foundation of the world chose every one who shall be saved unto salvation. We read:

"According as he hath CHOS-EN US IN HIM BEFORE the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love." — Eph. 1:4.

I say, beloved, every man that is ever saved was known of God, and chosen of God, before the world began, and everyone of them is going to be saved. There

is not going to be a one of God's elect go to Hell.

Notice again:

"All that the Father giveth me SHALL COME to me; and him that cometh to me I WILL IN NO WISE CAST OUT." — John 6:37.

Beloved, I am as sure as can be, that every one that God gave to Jesus Christ as a love gift before the foundation of the world shall ultimately be saved, and shall ultimately come to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, yet I hear Baptist preachers talk about the empty seats in Heaven, and the empty chairs around the Father's table, but every chair will have someone to fill it. I tell you, every one of God's elect ultimately shall come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as His Saviour. How blind these Arminians are! They are blinded by the Devil — they are blinded by the god of this world.

IV

THE END PICTURE OF THE BLIND.

To me, it is a sad thing to read my text as to how the god of this world has blinded the minds of those that believe not, because they go on elsewhere to find what is going to be the end picture of these that are blind. Listen:

"Let them alone; they be blind leaders of the blind. And if they blind lead the blind, BOTH SHALL FALL INTO THE DITCH." — Mt. 15:14.

And what is the ditch, beloved? It is the second largest word in the Bible for Hell. The largest word is a lake; the second largest word is a ditch. It says if both blind lead the blind, they'll both go to Hell.

That is exactly where the unsaved Methodists, and the unsaved Catholics, and the unsaved Campbellites, and the unsaved Jews, and the unsaved Baptists are going, who have never seen the truth that Jesus Christ died for all their sins on the cross of Calvary. Beloved, the man that has never seen is blind. If he is a preacher, he is a blind leader of the blind. If he is a layman, he is a blind man being led by a blind preacher. The result, ultimately, will be that of Hell itself.

The last hanging that took place in Kentucky was that of an individual who lived in Covington, Kentucky. I can remember it so well. I think it was in 1933 or 1934. At any rate, I saw the gallows on which he was hanged. I think just now how they put a cap over that fellow's eyes and led him up the steps — the last few steps of his way. A life of sin, and shame, and ignominy soon came to a close, when a trap door was sprung, and he fell to his death. I can see that man now with that black cap drawn down over his face and tied around his neck. I can see that individual as he walked up those lost few steps and the trap door was sprung and his soul went out to meet God. I say, beloved, that was the end picture of a life of sin as he blindfoldedly went into eternity.

That man with the blindfold over his eyes is just exactly like this crowd that my text talks about, who have been blinded by the god of this world, who are going out of this world into Hell without Jesus Christ as a Saviour.

CONCLUSION

I bring his message to a conclusion with this thought — you are going to be saved, God has to reveal the truth unto you. You'll never be saved because of mother, or father, or some friend. It tells you about Jesus Christ. It is imperative that we preach Jesus to you, but you'll never be saved unless God reveals the truth to you.

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be BORN AGAIN, he cannot see the kingdom of God." — John 3:3.

Beloved, you can't even see spiritual truth unless God reveals the truth unto you.

When Jesus spoke first concerning his church, he said to Simon (Continued on page 8, column 1)

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

DECEMBER 4, 1965

PAGE SIX

Why We Baptists Rebaptize Those Coming From Others

By ROY MASON
Aripeka, Florida

For centuries Baptists have been known for one characteristic — the practice of immersing again, those who come to from other denominations. This characteristic has always been until in recent years, when Baptist Churches with increasing looseness have begun to give the baptism of others as valid.

One generic name that is given to Baptists for centuries is the name "Ana-Baptist." The signifies those who "baptize again."

It is not mere narrowness that induced Baptists to baptize those who come to them from other faiths. It is simple consistency. Always when Baptists have begun to receive "alienism," they have started to de-emphasize and in a matter of time have surrendered to Modernism. Baptists of the North are a good example of this. More than 90% of the churches have been lost during the last 30 years among Northern Baptists.

Just what are some of the reasons for the Baptist practice of requiring immersion on the part of those who come to them from other denominations?

Because some others baptize with the wrong motive. Take for instance, the "Church of Christ" people — their form is immersion (immersion) but their motive is all wrong. They baptize to save. Manifestly, we cannot accept a baptism that helps to destroy a human soul.

Because some baptize by using wrong form of baptism. Sprinkle or pour, and this perversion of the ordinance. Baptism must be a burial. It is so stated in the Scriptures. (See Matt. 28:19-20). We cannot reasonably expect to receive a form of baptism that is plainly unscriptural.

Suppose the denomination practices sprinkling and immersion. Has at the insistence of an individual, immersed him — we accept it? No, for it has been half-heartedly administered. This is one optional thing. This is one thing, and there is yet another thing that we shall presently present.

Because man-founded churches have no divine authority. This is the biggest reason of all. Four things are necessary to Scriptural baptism, as follows:

A proper candidate for baptism — a truly saved person. A proper motive for baptism — obedience to Christ, not in salvation. A proper form of baptism — immersion in water. A proper authority — a church — the "church of Christ" built.

One of these can be lacking and baptism is to be worth anything. If a church gave the ordinance of baptism to the church that he established, and to which he was ordained. (See Matt. 28:19-20).

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28:19-20). Evidently He did not give baptism to those disciples as individuals, but to them in corporate capacity as constituting an institution that would exist until the end of the age. Why do we say this? Because Jesus promised to be with that institution "unto the end of the age." Individuals soon died — but the church He started has continued and will continue through this age.

Human founded institutions do not have authority to administer the ordinances, and authority is tremendously important. Let us emphasize this with some illustrations:

1. Suppose some one sought to arrest you, but stated that he had no authority for such, would you willingly submit?

2. Suppose you tried to get into another country using a passport that some one had counterfeited — would it do?

3. What is the difference between counterfeit money and genuine money? The main difference is that genuine money is issued by the authority of the government — the other is not. Authority is everything in this case.

Therefore authority is important. No less important is it in the matter of the administration of the ordinances. Only a true New Testament church has the right to baptize. A minister does not have authority to administer baptism "on his own."

THESE ARE SURELY STRANGE PEOPLE

People who talk about prayer, but never pray.

People who say tithing is right but never tithe.

People who wish to belong to the church, but never attend or support the church program.

People who say the Bible is God's Word to man, yet never read it.

People who say that eternity is more important than time, but who live for the present life.

People who criticize others for things they do themselves.

People who stay from church for trivial reasons; and then sing, "O, How I Love Jesus."

People who follow the devil all their lives, but expect to go to heaven.

Lax Baptists

(Continued from page 5)
A big church with big attendance. Very little is taught on the doctrines of grace. The preaching of repentance is a forgotten art. Prayer for convicting power from God is never heard! Holy Spirit conviction for sin is an ancient mystery. This helped produce the Catholic Church and it has produced the seeds of another Catholic Church in our day. God help us to awake!

B. The Bible was forsaken for human reasoning. "The scriptures were now no longer the standard of the Christian Faith. What was orthodox, and what was heterodox, from henceforward, to be determined by the decisions of fathers and councils..." (History of the Christian Church, p. 148, Wm. Jones).

This was in 325 A.D. when the association or convention met at Nicé, Bythina. This was a general council which was attended by all the Baptists who had drifted into membership drives. When you go back into history you find about the same conditions which we have today! The thing which helped them build the Catholic Church — is that they FORSOOK THE BIBLE. Today we have many Baptists (?) who will take the word of an association or convention above the Bible.

"For the time will come when



they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." (II Timothy 4:3-4).

Beloved, we should come before God with tears and ask Him to give us a love for His word.

How precious would it be to hear the voice of your mother or father who is in heaven. Oh, if I could hear my mother's voice how it would thrill my soul. But, how many of us love to hear God's precious words? How we "freeze" up and "pout" when he speaks to us. Something is wrong! The churches are full of lost people or God's children would love His word above the silly babblings of men!

C. Another thing which helped produce the Catholic Church was the teaching of Pelagius. He taught that man had a free will and was not in bondage to his depraved nature. "Pelagius, a British monk... made more resolute in maintaining that it is more wholesome to preach to men an imperative moral law whose demands they, as he thought,

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could satisfy by determined will and moral endeavour." (Kurtz Vol. 1, p. 346). This is the type of preaching you hear in our pulpits today. "It is just a simple thing for man to become a Christian," they say. Beloved, man does not have the ability to keep the law. His will is in bondage to his sinful nature. "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." (Rom. 8:7). Everybody is born in bondage and must be liberated by Christ before we can experience freedom. Christ said, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." (John 8:36). These people said they were not in bondage, (John

SEND TBE TO OTHERS

8:33). Today people laugh at God's word and his preachers but when they are in the lake of fire they will not laugh. Beloved, the teaching that man has a free will has filled the churches with unsaved people who have been misled into believing that they can "help" God in salvation. They know nothing of pure grace. They only have an empty profession. How sad! This is enough to make the angels weep. Let me ask you "have you experienced helplessness — hopelessness?" Have you been delivered? Has the Lord broken the chains of darkness and set you free?

D. The fourth thing which helped develop the Roman Catholic Church was preachers EXALTED THE DENOMINATION and not Christ. In 313 A.D. Constantine was in England conquering the Britons. Back home, a general revolted and set himself up as ruler. The Emperor began the

long trip home to restore his power. This was done by re-crossing the English Channel — traversing the Alps during winter and coming down into Italy from the north. This was very difficult and the army dwindled to less than 50,000 men. As the two armies approached, Constantine had a dream. In his dream he saw a cross all aflame in the sky with the Latin words IN HOC VINCES above it, meaning, "by this thou shalt conquer." He had been taught some things of Christ by his mother. Now, this Pagan gathers his soldiers and gives them the message which they need. I have always believed Constantine was a brilliant psychologist. Anyway, the army now knew they were going to win. They painted "crosses" on their shields. They learned little prayers! This army met the larger army in battle and completely destroyed it. With the victory came a brief courtship with the lax Baptists who had split away about 62 years before in 251 A.D.

The emperor was Pontifex Maximus before he accepted Christianity. This meant he was the head of religion. This is how the state became the male and the apostate Baptist Churches became the harlot which is the whore of Revelation. Please read (Continued on page 8, Column 4)

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"God Of This World"

(Continued from page six)

Peter:
"Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona; for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." — Mt. 16:17.

I say, beloved, truth has to come as a revelation from Almighty God. If you know anything at all about the truth of the Bible, don't boast because of it, but give God all the praise because it has come as a revelation from God.

Notice again:

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." — John 6:63.

Your flesh doesn't help you one particle in the understanding of the Word of God, but it must come as a result of a revelation from the Lord.

Lydia was the first woman that was saved in Europe. Paul had gone to Philippi, and the Word of God says that he went out by the riverbank where prayer was wont to be made. The word

"wont" means "legal." It was the only legal place that they could hold religious services. It was the only place in the city of Philippi where they could have services unmolested. If they had gone into the city, it would have been a violation of the law, but it was legal to pray on the riverside. Paul went there and preached. We read:

"And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us; WHOSE HEART THE LORD OPENED, that she attended unto the things

which were spoken of Paul." — Acts 16:14.

How was it that Lydia came to understand that day? It was because God opened her heart that she might see the truth.

Beloved, if God opens your heart, you'll see the truth, and if God doesn't open your heart, you'll die and go to a Devil's Hell, along with all the rest of this crowd who have been blinded by the god of this world.

When our Lord Jesus came into this world and began His public ministry at about 30 years of age, His first act on entering the ministry was to go into the synagogue at Nazareth. On the Sabbath day He took the Word of God, and stood up, and read it, and this was what He read:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and RECOVERING OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, to SET AT LIBERTY them that are bruised." — Luke 4:18.

Then the Word of God says that He closed the Book, handed it back to the minister, and sat down. Then he said:

"This day is his scripture fulfilled in your ears." — Luke 4:21.

I tell you, beloved, if you are ever able to see, it is because the Lord has granted sight unto you. It is because God has recovered that sight for you as one of the blind dupes of Satan and given you the ability to see the truth of His Word. Oh, might it please God to reveal Jesus Christ to some soul that is here, that some individual might come forward and take me by the hand and say, "Brother Gilpin, I have received Jesus as my Saviour. He has revealed Himself to me, and I want to publicly profess my faith in Him now."

May God bless you.

Lax Baptists

(Continued from page 7)

chapter seventeen of Revelation.

Beloved, we see this same thing today. There are many people tied up to conventions and associations which do nothing but become the husbands to the churches. Many churches today are worried about how they might hurt the feelings of the association. How many churches are exalting Christ into that position? Are we afraid of man? Are we afraid of the associational leaders? The poor Roman Catholic trembles today in the presence of the pope and many Baptist Churches tremble when the association's messengers pass some silly little edict!

Here is what we read in God's word, "Christ is the head of the church," (Col. 2:10). Our dear Lord is "Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion," (Eph. 2:21). Thank God, he has placed Christ above every association, convention, council, and synod of this world. When these Baptists departed from the faith they set up the things which grew into the Roman Catholic Church.

II

FOUR THINGS WHICH WILL KEEP US FROM BECOMING THE TYPE WHICH SET UP THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

A. Place the emphasis upon the internals. The heart determines our entire life. Solomon said, "Out of the heart are the issues of life." (Proverbs 4:23). If your heart is clean it will show in your walk, talk and life. If the heart is bad the life will be bad, (Matt. 12:34). Do you have a new heart in you? He will take away your old heart and give you a new life, (Eze. 36:26). Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing of my redeemer's love.

B. Stand on the Bible. Human reasonings cause doubts. Our little children are taught the evil theory of evolution in the public

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schools. This causes their minds to become hardened against the Bible. God's word gives the entire history of creation in the first chapter of the Bible. There is more in that one chapter than you will find in all the books of the God haters.

Friends, do you love the Bible? Does your heart and soul move as you read it? Is it worth more than all the edicts of the conventions and associations? Oh, how my poor soul yearns to hear words from my father in Heaven. Stand for the Bible. It will never be destroyed. Christ said, "My words shall never pass away." (Matthew 24:35).

C. We must re-emphasize the helpless condition of man by nature. Christ said, "No man can come to me, except the father which hath sent me draw him." (John 6:44). Beloved, this tells me one thing, MAN IS HELPLESS! Oh, how we need the Holy Spirit to quicken dead sinners. "All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down" — we don't even sing that song anymore.

D. Exalt Christ above all. Beloved, Christ is all and in all. He is rich in grace. He has grace for the tired and lonely. I was at the "old folks home" this afternoon and preached this and God saved four old people. He is not only rich but he loves the sinner (Eph. 3:19). The love of Christ passes knowledge. You can't learn of it in books! You can only learn of it when you come to him for salvation.

Did You Forget Us?

(Continued from page one)

our fault to a great extent in that we did not get our paper out in time — that is, the paper announcing our Thanksgiving program and offering. It could be that this is one reason why our offering has been as small as it has. In some way the Thanksgiving season just slipped up on us. We were so busy we just didn't get ready for it in time.

Then again, it may be that some of our readers just forgot us. It does seem strange, though, that so many who have been faithful supporters in the past have forgotten us this year.

Well, it isn't too late to do something about it. We would definitely urge every reader of this paper to make an offering immediately for the on-going of THE BAPTIST EXAMINER.

Maybe you just didn't have the money last week at the Thanksgiving season — maybe you forgot us — maybe we didn't get our letter to you in time — be that as it may, we would be mighty happy to hear from you today, and we would truly thank you for a liberal offering in behalf of the printed page.

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PAGE EIGHT

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