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MISSIONARY

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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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HERE IS THE EIGHTH INSTALLMENT OF . . .

"PATROLLING BEHIND THE RANGES"

By F. T. HALLIMAN
New Guinea Missionary

April 9, D.Q. "We had an early service this morning and were ready to be under way by 8 a.m. Today took us out of the Lewanda area and into an area known to us as the Owai area. From where we left this morning to reach our destination has taken us 6 hours of hard walking. About 2 p.m. we reached a place where we have quite a large work and have settled in here for a couple of days. Upon arrival a large group of people were waiting for us and I learned later that most of them had been there for about 5 hours waiting for us. When we assembled for preaching services about 200 people were there for the service," end quotation.

We had a good ministry in the Lewanda area. As mentioned previously, I made my first trip into

the area in January of 1967 just prior to coming home. We only had one small group at that time



ELD. FRED HALLIMAN

(about 20 people). The entire area, except for one small group at the far edge of it, was solid Lutheran. The other group was

Seventh Day Adventist. I have never taken a census of the area but from the people I have seen I estimate there to be upwards of 200 people in the area. We now have three buildings up and two more going up (at this writing they have probably already been erected), and people are asking us to come in two other adjoining areas. We are now preaching to at least half of the people in the entire valley. At each place where we held services the people would beg us for a permanent missionary. The only thing we could promise them was that we will do the best we can.

On our way out of the area we had to pass by a Government Aid Post staffed with a native Medical Orderly. We stopped and rested a while at that place and then passed on until we came to quite a large river running (Continued on page 2, column 2)

A Short Patrol Made By The Entire Roberts Family

By FRED W. ROBERTS
(New Guinea Missionary)

"But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children."—Psalm 103:17.

Where would we be if it were not for the august mercy of God? All of us only deserve hell and should rightly go there. We would but for God's mercy which provided a ransom for us. It is really wonderful that He gives us His righteousness, for our righteousness is only as filthy rags and could never stand before a Holy God.

Dear Brethren, it is a pleasure once again to spend a few minutes with you and share a few events.

I have been out on a number of patrols since coming here, and Karen has been interested in finding out what it is like to be on patrol. Two weeks ago on a Friday morning, Karen, Paul and I set out on patrol. We walked about four miles on the road for cars to a house that the government has for them when they are on patrol. We have a church by this house, and I held services immediately upon arrival.

In the afternoon we set up camp. After a fine meal prepared by Karen on an open fire, we sat around the fire and talked for a long time — just taking life easy for a change. Paul was

really happy with his new surroundings. He played outside all afternoon. He explored every portion of the area around the bush house that we were staying in. He immediately became interested in the fire which was in the center of the small grass house. He liked to get up on the patrol box so he could sit and



ELD. FRED W. ROBERTS

watch the fire while its open flames warmed him. We were a little concerned over Paul as we were afraid he might try to play in the fire, but he didn't, even though it must have been a big temptation to him. He is not real stable on his feet yet, and once (Continued on page 6, column 3)

Here Are Several Kinds Of Professing Christians

ELDER ROY MASON
Aripeka, Florida

There are different kinds of professing Christians among those who claim to be saved people. The same different types are found wherever churches and professing Christians are found. Let us list some of these types:

The professed Christian who doesn't follow Christ in baptism



ELD. ROY MASON

and Church membership. In New Testament times 3,000 were saved on Pentecost, and the same number were baptized that day. Often nowadays we hear of people — a whole group making profession during a revival — then maybe a third of the number never show up for baptism. It is very doubtful if such persons have been saved. (John 8:31).

The professed Christian who is baptized, then never shows any further interest in the things of God. We think of the great number who were baptized following a certain revival. Many of these baptized never came back to us of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Every time you see a cloud in the sky, you ought to more or less stand still and say, "He may be on this one." I don't mean that I am in any wise at all setting a date as to His return. However, I do say

some sort of personal gain. (See Acts 8:18-23). Simon mentioned here, wanted to make money out of religion. Many have joined a prominent church hoping for profit to their business or social standing thereby. Many are in a church for what they can get out of it. They want attention — they want notice — they want to be visited and coddled, and if they don't get it, they are mad and become critics. "I am among you as one TO BE SERVED" is their attitude, rather than having that of Christ, who said, "I am among you as one that SERVETH."

The professing Christian who is content to ride with the rest of the church. There are many such. They are willing for others to pay all the bills and render all the service, while they drop in for an occasional visit. No one should belong to anything unless he is willing to bear his share.

The professing Christian who has to be "warmed over" frequently. This is the kind of person who gets all heated up during (Continued on page 8, column 1)

Here Are Some Appreciated Letters

"Enclosed you will find a check to help in your great publication. My prayer is for you, and that you will receive plenty to cover all the debt, with plenty left to carry on in the future. May God bless you and give you strength and means to carry on the good work."

Mrs. C. F. Cate
(Arkansas)

"I wish I could send a large contribution, but as I can't, I am sending a small one. I want to tell you that when I see my TBE in my mailbox, it just looks beautiful. When I start reading it, I can hardly put it down until I've read it all."

Mrs. E. D. Cull
(Michigan)

"I am sending a small offering to help with the expense of THE BAPTIST EXAMINER. Hope others have seen fit to help lift the great financial burden that you have. I pray much for you and our brothers that are in New Guinea. May the (Continued on page 8, column 5)

Mourner's Bench Not Old Fashioned Nor Scriptural

By JOE WILSON
Winston-Salem, N. C.

For many years sound Baptists have wondered what a mourner's bench is good for. At Grace Baptist Church, we have found an answer. When we moved into our present building, we found a nice carpeted mourner's bench left by the previous occupants. We could not long leave that there, so I preached this sermon shortly after, and at the close of the service, the men removed the mourner's bench from the building. (Taking idols out, you might call it.) However, we soon found a good use for this demoted mourner's bench. There is a ditch in front of our church, and one muddy day we placed the mourner's bench across the ditch for people to walk across, without getting in the mud and water of the ditch. Did I say demoted? I should have said promoted, for now this piece of wood, instead of being an idol god, was serving a useful God-honoring purpose. I trust you will agree, that, here at last, is

a good use for a mourner's bench.

Now, the mourner's bench is a very popular institution among a large class of religious people.



ELDER JOE WILSON

So popular, that many of them think there is no salvation apart from a mourner's bench. Many look on it as dangerous, modernistic heresy not to have a mourner's bench. It is never popular to oppose that which is popular. It brings reproach and persecution upon one. But, beloved, the preacher's obligation is to preach the truth of God's Word, no matter what popular idol of the masses he must oppose. No matter what it might cost us in fame, acceptance with the crowds, or financially, we are to preach the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. So let us look a while at the heresy of the mourner's bench.

I.

The mourner's bench is not old fashioned. This is the popular terminology of the religious world. How many times have we heard of "The old-fashioned mourner's bench." Now this is nothing but the language of ignorance. No man who knows the Word of God or the history of the mourner's bench could ever call it old-fashioned. In fact, one of the reasons I oppose (Continued on page 7, column 2)

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor John R. Gilpin

"PLAIN PROPHECIES FOR PLAIN PEOPLE"

"Write the vision, and MAKE IT PLAIN upon tables, that he may run that readeth it."—Hab. 2:2.

"WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN JESUS COMES?"

"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him; and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."—Rev. 1:7.

In the light of my text, I think every time a cloud comes over the sky it should be a reminder to us of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Every time you see a cloud in the sky, you ought to more or less stand still and say, "He may be on this one." I don't mean that I am in any wise at all setting a date as to His return. However, I do say

that every time we see a cloud in the sky, it ought to cause us to pause and reflect, relative to His coming; and as I say, we ought to say to ourselves, "My Lord may be on this one."

In fact, you and I ought to be thinking about the second coming of Jesus Christ every day. There ought not be a day go by but that we are thinking about, remembering, and looking forward to His return.

When D. L. Moody was pastor in Chicago he had a number of missions around over the city, and the various preacher boys of the Moody church conducted services in those missions. Every once in a while Mr. Moody would

lay aside a week in which he would visit each night a different mission. He would always tell the preacher boys who had charge of the missions in advance: "Now sometime this week I am going to come see you." He wouldn't tell them what night, but he would just say, "Now sometime this week I am going to come see you." That meant when Monday night came, every fellow was on his toes to have the very best service possible, because there was a possibility that Mr. Moody might drop in and worship with them that night. I guess, in all probability, after Monday night, (Continued on page 2, column 3)

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JOHN R. GILPIN Editor

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Editorials

Nearly 30 years ago we sent out our first copy of THE BAPTIST EXAMINER.

Literally, millions of copies of this paper have been distributed in this intervening period. For whatever souls have been saved, lives blessed, or faith strengthened, or for whatever good may have been accomplished, we give Him thanks today.

Many and dire have been the prophecies through the years as to the continuance of this paper. Yet, in spite of all its enemies, we are able to continue mailing it each week — all praise to Him.

It and its editor have many enemies. The machine crowd of Kentucky Baptists hate us both. So do all the "me too" preachers. Ditto for the seminary crowd and the modernists and the feminists and the lodge crowd and the Arminians. Both Catholics and Protestants hate us with an unholy hatred. We get no love from the alien immersion, open communion, invisible church Baptist. Likewise those who observe Easter and Christmas and who hold union meetings literally despise us.

In fact, there are not many who do love us. Here and there, we find an old-time Baptist preacher or some Bible-loving layman, or an old saintly grandma who believes our messages and loves us in Christ's stead.

For these whom we bless with our written ministry, we are indeed thankful. How wonderful to know that there are some who are better Baptists because of our ministry!

It is to these who love our ministry that I appeal today.

We have no private subsidy with which to meet expenses.

We do have individual friends and churches who believe in and support us. Some of these have been most liberal in their support through the years.

We do have a God who is abundantly able to supply our needs. Sometimes He makes us wait a little while, but He has never failed us. In the years we have published this paper, He has seen us through every trial.

We started with no money and like Peter and John, we can say today, "Silver and gold have I none." In fact, the first half of this year, we have accumulated a deficit of about \$1,000. July and August are our hardest months.

Frankly speaking, we need your help NOW. To put it mildly, we must have help from some source.

We have readers who doubtlessly could assume our deficit for these six months — if they would.

Others (many of them) might renew their subscription just now.

Still others might send a gift subscription for some friend. Instead of merely renewing — renew and subscribe for a friend too.

You could help us by ordering your printing from us. Letterheads, envelopes, tracts, booklets, and business forms can be produced as cheaply by us as anyone else. Any profit we might make from them would be a blessing to us.

May I ask for a special love offering for our ministry just now. Believing that it is God-honoring and Bible-centered, I do not hesitate to ask for your support.

Think kindly of us. We feel that for the sake of the Truth, we must keep this paper in the mails. We can't do so though without your help.

How long has it been since you wrote the editor, telling of the blessings the paper brought to you, and sending a gift to lift his burden and gladden his heart? Won't you do so today?

In the Name of Christ, we make this appeal.

Fred T. Halliman

(Continued from page one)

through a jungle. We looked for a place to cross and finally found a bridge that led up into a tree; then the tree was leaning over the river for a way and another section of bridge led from there to the other side of the river. I looked at this contraption for several minutes before I decided it was either to cross on this rig or swim the river. I was in no mood for swimming so I crossed the makeshift bridge.

About midday we came to a mission station operated by the Brethren. The man that runs the station is so sure that I have stolen a lot of his sheep he has told everything on me and about me but the truth, in order to try to get the people to come back to his mission. As he was near the road doing some work I stopped for a few minutes to talk with him and found him surprisingly friendly, however, as was later revealed it was only skin deep. From where this mission station is it was two hours walk to where we were going. When we finally arrived at this place we had a royal welcome. About 200 men, women, boys, and girls were waiting for us and as soon as we could get settled for the night we assembled for a service.

After the service some of the elders came to talk to me about the Brethren missionary. They said that during my visit to America that he often frequented their services and tried to persuade them to come to his services. They said he would make various and varied overtures to try to get them to side with him. He had told them that I would never return, that he was in a much better position to help them materially and spiritually than I was, that it was the only right thing for them to do since they were in "his area" and not mine; and lastly, in a desperate effort when he had seen that everything else had failed, he offered them an undisclosed amount of money if they would only denounce the Baptist and let him preach to them.

After the men had finished talking I asked them, "Well, what did you tell the fellow?" Here was their answer. "We are Baptist by conviction and not just because Halliman is a Baptist. We are anchored in the solid Rock of Christ and our anchor holds and we cannot be moved." Beloved, this is the kind of Baptists that God makes through the preaching of the truth. Most natives are easily persuaded with the offer of material gains, but God's elect, when called out and properly taught, will stand the

test of time even though they be of the most primitive tribes of New Guinea and tempted with the things that all natural men love most, i.e., money and an opportunity to get ahead.

April 10. On this day we had no travel planned so stayed around the camp talking to the native folk and held two services which were well attended. The Brethren missionary made several trips past where we were, but did not stop.

April 11. We were up early this morning as we were to be moving on to another place and had a service scheduled here before we were to leave. In due time we were under way and about half way between there and where we were going to make camp for a couple days we came to another of our out stations and stopped to have a preaching service. The house is not too large here and there was an overflowing crowd. About 125 finally managed to get inside the building and at least another 25 were sitting outside. By about 1 p.m. we had reached a place called Badada where we have quite a large congregation and we soon held a service. After service we got settled for a couple days and then late in the afternoon we held our fourth service for the day.

On April 12 we remained at Badada and held two preaching services while one of our missionaries went back to the place where we had stopped the day before and preached to the folk there again. The women in this place show much more interest than the men.

On April 13 we left Badada about 8 a.m. and after about two hours had reached another of our preaching places. We stopped there and had about 50 people for a preaching service. The native missionary that works this area was supposed to meet us there but had gone up the valley to one of our latest places to be established and consequently he did not make it back in time. After our service was finished there we went on to where we were to have our final services before returning to the Mission Station.

When we arrived at this place there were quite a large group waiting to greet us and soon thereafter quite a few more people gathered in and we had a preaching service with about 200 people present. The people brought plenty of food as they had also done at the last two places where we had camped.

On April 14, which was on a Sunday, we held two more services to exceedingly large crowds and that wound up our preaching for the patrol. On the 15th of April we left quite early and in just about 4 hours we had walked across the mountain and had reached our Mission Station. The patrol had lasted exactly one month. We will have one more article giving a summation of the patrol and the mission work in general.

Plain Prophecies

(Continued from page one)

when Tuesday night came, that one of the lads — the one that was visited by Mr. Moody the night before, would perhaps breathe a little sigh of relief, but all the others would be on their toes expecting Moody to come see them.

Well, I have often thought of that in this respect: We ought to be on our toes, not just during one week, but we ought to be on our toes, with our eyes on the clouds, looking for the coming of Jesus Christ 365 days of every year. I say to you, beloved, every one of us ought to be continuously looking for His coming and expecting Jesus Christ to put in His appearance.

In my last message on the Second Coming I tried to show you what is going to take place when Jesus comes. Among other things, I said that this physical world is going to be made over. Once

NOTICE

We have had a tremendous amount of difficulty in getting our mail delivered.

We have every reason to believe that there is someone in the Ashland post office who is not only destroying letters but is stealing money from the same. We have reported it to the postal authorities on many instances, but thus far, nothing has developed to be of any help to us. All we know is that we are sending out many letters every day, and lots of them are not being delivered. And in like measure, there are lots of letters that are sent to us that we never receive.

Sometimes, three or four months pass by and we hear from an individual who wonders why he has not received a book or why we have not written him. This is truly a grief to us and all we can do is furnish the book free of charge or put an individual on the mailing list or maybe a whole list of individuals at our expense. We do not allow anyone to lose if we know it. We must say though that this is a

tremendous grief to us for it puts us in an exceedingly bad light when folk do not understand. We have always handled our mail so carefully and so promptly, and it is more than a grief to know that our letters are not coming through today.

May I ask you to please be patient with us. We pray that Lord will enable the postal investigators to ultimately place their finger on the culprit.

In the event any of our readers have written us and have not received a reply, after waiting a reasonable time, then please use the kindness of writing to us. If you have ordered a book, or sent in subscriptions to TBE, or a contribution of any type, feel perfectly free to write us. We will count it a pleasure you will do so, and we will certainly do our best to not only satisfy you as to the request you have made, but furthermore it will help us perhaps in ultimately bringing the guilty party face to face with some postal investigator.

upon a time this physical world was a thing of beauty, but as a result of sin, thorns and thistles came into the earth. Desert, wasteland, and solitary places began to abound. But someday, when Jesus comes, this earth is going to be made over, and it will be a new earth. The Word of God says that even the desert and the solitary place shall be glad, and the wilderness shall blossom like a rose garden.

Then I told you also that He is going to change things so far as the Jewish nation is concerned.

I think you will agree with me that the Jew is not in his place tonight. I don't think God ever intended the Jew to be as he is this evening. I think you will agree with me that the Jew is surely not in his homeland, and he is not doing the thing that God is pleased with. But there is a day coming when God is going to take the Jews and put them back in Palestine, and He is going to reign, Himself, from Jerusalem, and they are going to go forth as missionaries to the islands of the sea, to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I also told you that when Jesus comes, He is going to get rid of all these false churches. I have no apology to offer in any wise at all relative to Catholicism or Protestantism when I say that

they are false churches. When our Lord Jesus Christ comes back, He is going to destroy them.

I know, beloved, it sounds like that could never take place. I am satisfied that the further thing from the eyes of the world is the destruction of Catholicism and the Protestant churches that have come out of Rome. The majority of the people would "hoot" at the idea that such a thing were going to take place, but, beloved, that day is coming. When Jesus Christ comes again these false churches are going to be destroyed.

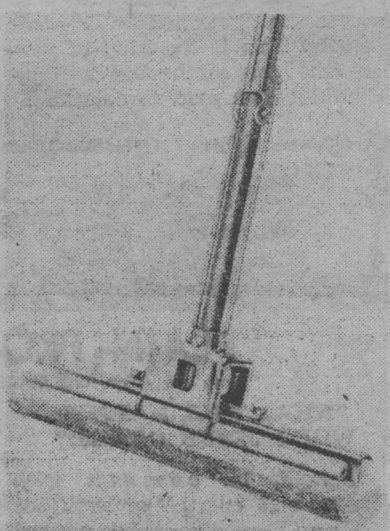
I also told you what is going to happen so far as His true churches are concerned. It is going to be a glorious day when the church that Jesus built, without a rival, and without anything in this world to distract, stands out pre-eminently, and is owned and recognized by the Lord Jesus Christ as His church. I tell you I am glad to be a Baptist now, but I am going to be mighty glad in that day to have been a Baptist, and to have tried to stand for His Word.

Now tonight I want to show you some other things that are going to happen when Jesus comes.

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

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Just as one dog can start all the dogs to barking, so one person can start a whole group to gossiping.

Plain Prophecies

(Continued from page two)

I. A PURE LANGUAGE.

When our Lord comes He is going to give us a restoration as to language. We can go back to the early chapters of the book of Genesis and find that originally everybody spoke the same language. I think it must have been wonderful in those days that an individual didn't have to learn another language in order to converse with other people. I think it must have been wonderful in those days just to know that everybody spoke the same language, and that there was no difference at all so far as the tongues were concerned.

Now when did this confusion of tongues come to pass? If you will go back to the time when they tried to build a tower unto the skies—at the Tower of Babel—you will find the Word of God tells us God came down and destroyed their work and that He confused their languages. From that time on there has been a confusion as to languages throughout the world. Listen:

"And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there CONFOUND THEIR LANGUAGE, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth; and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called

Babel; because the Lord did there CONFOUND THE LANGUAGE OF ALL THE EARTH; and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth."—Gen. 11: 4-9.

Now, then, beloved, who is there among us that can go to any foreign country and make himself known? There is among us, no one that can go out as a missionary and preach to people without studying and learning the language of that country. The very fact that we have to study and learn the language is proof of the universality of sin, and that there is sin within this earth. God scattered men upon the face of the earth, and God confounded the languages of men just because of that sin of presumption on the part of man in his attempt to climb up, or build a tower into Heaven. Beloved, the day is coming when all this is going to be changed. It is not going to be changed as a result of anything that man does, but it will be changed when Jesus comes again. Listen:

"For then will I TURN TO THE PEOPLE A PURE LANGUAGE that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent."—Zeph. 3:9.

If you will read carefully the context of this Scripture, you will find He is talking about the second coming, and He speaks about the judgment that is going to fall upon the nations of the world. Then He tells us that after He judges the nations of the world, at that time God is going to return to the people a pure language.

I have often wondered what that language is going to be. Once upon a time I asked a great Greek scholar his opinion of it. He said he thought it would be Greek. I asked him for his rea-

son. He said, "Well, when our Lord was here in the days of His flesh, He spoke the Koine Greek, and in all probability the Greek would be the language that the people will speak." I rather imagine this professor was somewhat prejudiced because he was recognized as a great Greek scholar himself. Beloved, I don't know what it is going to be, but I know one thing, it is going to be a glorious day when all of God's children will speak the same language. We'll be able to converse with one another, to talk with one another, and to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to the islands of the sea without having to learn any language. When is this going to take place? When is it going to come to pass? It will come to pass when Jesus Christ comes back to this world.

II.

THE BELIEVER.

So far as the believer is concerned, is there anything that our Lord hasn't done for us yet? Is there any unfinished work so far as we are concerned? He finished His work at the cross relative to our salvation, but I would insist that there is still some unfinished work that Jesus has to perform so far as even believers are concerned.

Beloved, you have a nature that isn't exactly perfect, and that is speaking mildly, I think, for every one of us. You have a disposition that isn't exactly what it ought to be. Well, some of these days the Lord Jesus Christ is going to come back, and when He does, He is going to take over, and re-make these bodies that we possess today. Listen:

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be CONFORMED to the image of his Son, that he might be the first-born among many brethren."—Rom. 8:39.

Notice, it is according to the

predestinated plan of Almighty God that those of us who are saved shall be conformed to the image of His Son.

I am ready to grant you that most of us would never win a beauty prize. I am ready to grant you that the majority of us will never be chosen to be the most beautiful woman nor the most handsome man. I am ready to grant that some day, though, the Lord Jesus Christ is going to make these bodies over, and then we are going to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ Himself.

Listen again:

"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ; Who shall CHANGE OUR VILE BODY, that it may be FASHIONED like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."—Phil. 3:20, 21.

When Paul speaks of our vile body he means it is truly bad. Really that isn't a good expression, or a good translation of the Greek in this instance. When it says He will change our vile body, actually and literally the Greek says that He will fashion anew our body of humiliation. In reality, our body is something that ought to humiliate us. Not one of us ought to be proud of his body. There isn't a one of us that will ever be able to stand before a mirror and say, "Mirror, mirror, on the wall." God knows that we all have a body of humiliation, but someday that body of humiliation is going to be changed, and the Lord Jesus Christ is going to fashion again our bodies and make us over to look like Himself.

We read:

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we SHALL BE LIKE HIM; for

we shall see him as He is."—I John 3:2.

Beloved, I don't know just what you and I will actually look like in that day, but I know one thing; when Jesus Christ comes, He is going to make us over, and we shall be like Him. These bodies are going to be changed, and changed completely.

The Apostle Paul refers to that change as it takes place, for he says:

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and WE SHALL BE CHANGED. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."—I Cor. 15:51-53.

Some of these days you may be standing before the mirror combing your hair, or you may be shaving, or you ladies may be standing before the mirror touching up some of the rough spots of nature when the Lord Jesus Christ puts in His appearance, and then you will be changed. Beloved, I say to you, when Jesus comes, He is going to make over, and fashion anew the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.

What a glorious day it is going to be when the Son of God puts in His appearance, and when all believers are changed and made to look like the Lord Jesus!

III.

THE UNSAVED WORLD.

When Jesus comes, what is He going to do to the unsaved world? Beloved, He is coming (Continued on page 4, column 5)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

JULY 6, 1968

PAGE THREE

STOP-LOOK-SHOP



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"Please explain John 5:1-4. Of the balance of the multitude, we have no record that they were healed. What happened to them?"

ROY
MASON

Radio Minister
Baptist
Preacher
Aripeke, Florida



It was my privilege to visit the pool of Bethesda when I was in Palestine several years ago. It is very small now—very little like the pool of ancient times I am sure. There are several questions about this passage. What feast is referred to in verse 1? Bible scholars are in complete disagreement about this. The expression "I don't know," is very pertinent. What about the angel troubling the water? Was that fact or fancy? Some manuscripts of the Bible omit verse 3 and part of verse 4. Personally I accept the full statement and do not seek to explain it away. I don't understand the details, but I plan to ask John to clear up the mystery for me when some day I see him. (That time is coming. Hallelujah!)

Much of the healing of Jesus was for the purpose of accrediting him as the Messiah and Son of God. He was not in the business of wholesale healing, so in this case he chose what was probably the worst case and healed the man. What happened to the rest? I don't know. It is to be presumed that they went on lying around the pool, waiting for the chance to outscramble others in the effort to get in first.

If we are inclined to pity them, let me remind you that we have no indication that any of them appealed to Jesus for healing. Seemingly they preferred to look to water rather than to Jesus for healing. Are not the Campbellites guilty of the very same thing today?

JAMES
HOBBS

Rt 2 Box 182
McDermott, Ohio
RADIO SPEAKER
and MISSIONARY
Kings Addition
Baptist Church
South Shore, Ky.



There are many passages of the Bible that are hard to explain. Please note, I did not say that they are hard to believe. Too many times people try to explain away the miracles of God's Word. I do not. If God could take a depraved sinner, such as myself, and save him, then He could do anything else. It was a miracle when He made me whole. It was a miracle when He quickened my dead heart. It was a miracle when He made me worthy to be a child of His. Since He could do that to me I know He could set fire to a bush and yet not consume or even scorch the bush. I know He could part the waters and let His people walk across on dry land. I know He could bring the three Hebrew children out of the furnace safely and Daniel out of the lion's den unharmed.

When I say that they are hard to explain, I mean that they are

hard due to my lack of knowledge. As to the passage at hand—I have heard and read several different ideas. You have the same books available to you that I do so I will not enumerate them. Let me tell you of the position that I take regarding the Bible. If God did not reveal somewhere else in His Word some spiritual application of a passage or some interpretation of a passage, then I believe it should be taken literally. Such is the case with this verse. I do not know of any other teaching of this passage. I do not find it hard to believe that an angel came down and touched the pool every so often. It is not our place to question God or His methods relative to this or any other thing that He does. "Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God?" (Rom. 9:20).

The only person that Christ healed in this particular incidence was the impotent man. What happened to the rest? They continued just as they were. When Christ healed a blind man, it did not mean all blind men were healed. When Christ saved me there was a friend of mine sitting next to me who went out unsaved. Why didn't He save my friend? I don't know—but I praise Him and give thanks and do not question His sovereignty.

E. G.
COOK

701 Cambridge
Birmingham, Ala.
BIBLE TEACHER
Philadelphia
Baptist Church
Birmingham, Ala.



In the first place, five out of nine versions I have checked on this Scripture do not give us verse 4 at all. There is much doubt as to this verse. It may, or it may not be a part of the Holy Writ. And in the second place, I have not been able to learn all about that which has been REVEALED in the precious Book. But I promise you faithfully that as soon as I do learn all about that which is revealed, I will immediately start guessing about that which is not revealed.

Scriptures like Mt. 10:1 and Acts 5:16 might be used as grounds for guessing that all these were healed, but I am afraid to try it.

AUSTIN
FIELDS

610 High Street
Coal Grove, Ohio
PASTOR,
Arabia Baptist
Church
Arabia, Ohio



The healing of the impotent man is one of seven miracles performed by Christ and recorded by John before the crucifixion. Though the Lord performed many other miracles besides the seven, the Holy Spirit selected only seven, and then tells us why these seven were chosen.

"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these

are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." John 20:30-31.

The miracle of John 5 was recorded that we might believe, and in believing, have life through His name. But, before one can believe in Christ, a resurrection must take place for all are born spiritually depraved. In each of the seven miracles, there is pictured man's condition before God, manifesting man's inability to resurrect himself. The description of this multitude around the pool of Bethesda reveals this condition of depravity.

"After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches." John 5:1-2.

To describe man's condition overall, the Holy Spirit used the word impotent, which means without strength. If Adam's descendants are without strength, then it would be impossible for one to redeem or resurrect himself from among the dead. Read Ezek. 18:4 and Rom. 6:23. Thus the condition of us all is one of helplessness and hopelessness.

Next, the Holy Spirit describes for us some of the characteristics of those who are impotent. He begins by saying they were blind. This is a picture of man in a natural state unable to comprehend things of God. Read John 3:3. The Spirit then tells us that they were halt, which means they were lame. This would teach us that man is unable to walk toward God, or with God. Our walk in the Adamic man is opposite to the walk with God.

"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.

The next description is that they were withered, which refers to man's hands or work being paralyzed. A paralyzed hand that could not perform any kind of work. Neither could

they work until they could walk, and they cannot walk until they can see. What a deplorable condition given to us by the Holy Spirit of the multitude of Adam's descendants.

Into this scene of misery and woe comes the Lord Jesus Christ. I would have you note that the Lord came where the impotent man was. This is a picture of the incarnation of Christ. He was born of woman, born into this world as a great physician to bring strength to His people, to open the eyes of the blind, to heal the broken hearted, and lame feet, and to heal the withered hands.

"The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them." Math. 11:5.

As he passed through the five (number for grace) porches, He was not recognized nor wanted. Surely that was characteristic of His life. Read John 1:11.

If He is to be manifested as Saviour of His people, He must take the initiative, which He does in verse 6.

There is only one person that He speaks to in all this vast number—only one chosen. What a glorious picture this is of unconditional election. It is so obvious who the "chooser" was. The impotent man did not choose Jesus, nor did he know Him, as Christ did not reveal whom He was until after He had made him whole. Read verse 14. Revelation comes after the quickening work of the Holy Spirit.

The purpose of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ was to save His people from their sins and He will not fail. This impotent man was one of His people. This one is selected out of the multitude. The others are passed by and left in their affliction. They typify the non-elect or those who are not chosen as sheep.

Many are those who deny God's sovereign choice of those whom He saves. They contend that God foresaw we would believe, or will to accept Him, and because He foresaw faith, He elected us unto salvation. There is no evidence of faith on this man's

part. He did not fully believe until after He was made whole. There was no crying or begging for mercy, rather Christ in His foreign grace spoke the Word and the work was done. This is not a clearer picture of salvation by grace than this one in John 5.

The multitude were left in their affliction which shows that unless Christ chooses and takes the initiative, all will be in the lake of fire.

Plain Prophecies

(Continued from page 3) back to reign over it. He is coming as He came once. Once He came to be in the hands of men. When He comes again, men are going to be in His hands. Once He came to have men control Him. When He comes a second time, He is coming to control men. We read:

"Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the Lord has said unto me, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt BREAK THEM with a rod of iron; thou shalt DASH THEM in pieces like a 'potter's vessel'."—Psa. 2:6-9.

Beloved, this doesn't sound like the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. This doesn't sound like the first time He came when Herod had all the babies in Bethlehem put to death hoping to kill the Lord of Glory. He loved, some day, when He comes He is coming to reign over the world. He is coming to reign far as this unsaved world is concerned, and He will break rebellious sinners with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. Notice again:

"Sit thou at my right hand until I make thine enemies thy footstool."—Psa. 110:1.

Some of these days God is going to take the unsaved of the world and use them as His footstool. You know what it means to sit down in your easy chair and put your feet upon a footstool. (Continued on page 5, column 1)

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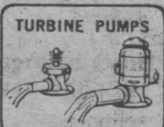
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New Guinea Photo Story



In these two pictures can be seen part of our carriers as they are coming up the steep mountain side with our cargo and supplies. These native men are extremely strong for their size. Pound for pound in sheer strength and endurance they would kill any white man, especially in this kind of country. But even the natives, who are hardened to this kind of country found the going rough indeed after a few days in the Pogaia area.



"Plain Prophecies"

(Continued from page 4)
It is underneath you. It is completely dominated by you. Well, some day this unsaved world is going to be the footstool of the Lord Jesus Christ.
I ask, why is our Lord waiting? What is the reason He doesn't come on now, and set up His kingdom? Why doesn't He return and give us a pure language? Why doesn't He return and make the believer over? Why doesn't He return and take over this unsaved world and reign over it? I think there are some three reasons why He has delayed His return.
In the first place, I am satisfied that He has delayed His return waiting for man to demonstrate his inability to order his own course. God's Word tells us that man can't order his course. Listen:
"O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is NOT in man that walketh TO DIRECT HIS STEPS." — Jer. 10:23.
Beloved, man can't order his course. Man can't direct his steps. Everything man does, he makes a mess of it. In everything that man attempts, he fails concerning it. I am as certain as can be there isn't in any phase of life anything that man

has ever touched but what man has complicated and confused the things that he has tried to do.
Take for example, the industrial world. Union leaders are pulling their hair today because they don't know which way to turn. They know things are out of control. In contrast, I am sure that there isn't a financial tycoon in the world but what will say that everything is out of control so far as business is concerned. I am sure that is true in any field that you turn to.
In churches, for example, you know as well as I, how far removed from the New Testament church the religious world is today. Man just simply cannot order his steps. Man just simply cannot direct his ways. Anything that man takes hold of, he makes a mess of it. That is why the religious world is in such a condition as it is today.
I might also say that the political aspect of the world is surely far from encouraging. In our own country, even though you would want to be a loyal citizen, you wouldn't say that our government is what you would like for it to be. Regardless of what you or I might think about the Supreme Court's decision on prayer and the reading of the Bible in public schools, this administration is charged

with the idea of taking God out of the school.

I say to you, this administration has taken God out and put the Negro in. That is about what it amounts to. So far as segregation is concerned, it is enough to cause every one of us to pull our hair as we think about what the future may hold in store. When I say "future," I am not talking about 10, or 15, or 20 years from now; rather, I am talking about what may happen within the next few weeks' time.

Beloved, man can't order his steps. Anything that man takes hold of, he makes a failure concerning it. I think the Lord Jesus Christ is just holding off His coming, waiting for man to realize that it is not in man to order His steps. He is just waiting for man to demonstrate his inability to order his course.

I think the Lord Jesus Christ is also waiting for the Holy Spirit to finish His work of conviction. While our Lord is waiting, the Holy Spirit is doing the work that the Lord Jesus Christ left Him in this world to do, which is the work of conviction. We read:

"And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged." — John 16:8-11.

Beloved, one reason why He is waiting is to let the Holy Spirit complete His work of convicting the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.

Then I think that He is also waiting to call in His elect. Before the foundation of the world our Lord chose a certain number unto Himself. That certain number that was chosen are the elect of God, and every one of them are going to be saved. Not one of them will go to Hell. Not one of them will ever perish. Every one of them will be ultimately, and finally, and completely saved. When the last one has been garnered in, the day of the return of the Son of God will take place. What is He waiting for? Listen:

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, NOT WILLING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH, but that all should come to repentance." — II Pet. 3:9.

If you will read this entire third chapter of II Peter, you can easily see that the "any" to which he refers is the elect of God. He is not willing that even one of His elect shall fail, but that all of them shall come to repentance.

I say to you, when man has failed to order his steps completely, when the Holy Spirit finishes His work of convicting this world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, and when the elect of God have been called unto Himself, then the Lord Jesus Christ is going to come back to this world that has been in rebellion, and has rejected Him continually. Then He is going to make this unsaved world His footstool, and He is going to live and reign over this unsaved world.

In the book of Daniel we read the story of that great image which the king dreamed of — a head of gold, chest and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron, and feet of iron and miry clay. When Daniel interpreted that dream, he said to Nebuchadnezzar, "You, as the king of Babylon, are the head of gold, the chest and arms of silver are to represent the combined kingdom of Media and Persia, the belly of brass is to represent Greece under Alexander the Great, the legs are to repre-



These pictures are very deceiving for none of them show the area as it actually is. In this picture I am coming up the mountain side and in back of me is the Strickland River. It appears as though I might turn around, walk a few steps and be at the water's edge of a small river. The truth of the matter is I am nearly three thousand feet above what appears to be a small river. Upon closer examination note the tree tops in back of me. These were not just mere bushes but quite tall trees and I am standing a long way from the timber line. I stopped several times to rest before reaching the top of this mountain.

While the climb was long and hard there is always something about being on top of a mountain that makes one feel happy, and the one thing that made me happier than anything else at the moment this picture was taken was the fact that this steep mountain climb was behind me. This picture was made on the twelfth day of the patrol and I had already lost about 15 pounds. I have one of the best reducing formulas there is — I will share the secret with anyone upon request.

sent the Roman Empire divided into two parts—the Eastern and the Western Roman Empire, and the feet of iron and miry clay are the nations that follow and come out of Rome.

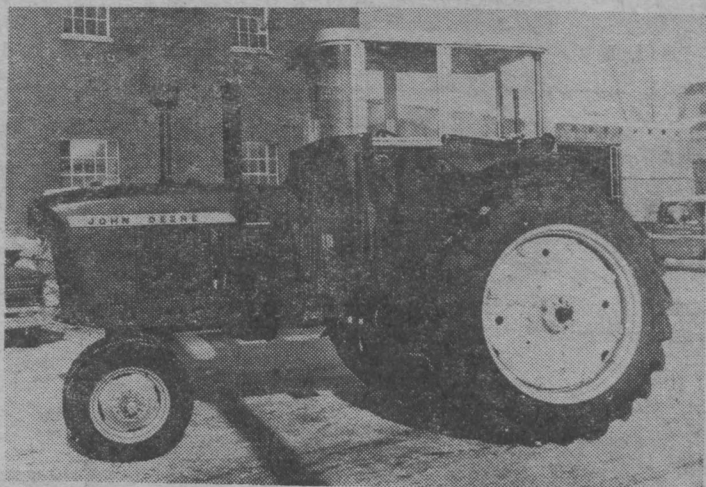
Beloved, I don't know all that that vision may stand for, but I am sure of one thing, the vision that King Nebuchadnezzar had was a dream of history. He saw everything that would take place down to, and including, the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, for we read:

"Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and

brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away that no place was found for them; and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth." — Dan. 2:34, 35.

Nebuchadnezzar said he dreamed he saw a stone cut out of the mountain without hands that rolled down the mountain side and struck that image. Where? On the head? No. On the chest or the arms? No. On that were of iron and clay, and (Continued on page 6, column 1)

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PAGE FIVE

Plain Prophecies

(Continued from page five)

the belly? No. On the legs? No. Where did it strike? It struck the feet, and the feet were ground into powder. This stone represents the Lord Jesus Christ who was born of a virgin, contrary to human nature. As the stone was cut out of the mountains without hands, which was contrary to the laws of nature, so Jesus Christ was born contrary to human nature.

Beloved, as that stone rolled down the mountain side and struck the image at the feet, so Jesus Christ is coming someday. He didn't come in the days of Nebuchadnezzar. He didn't come in the days of Greece. He didn't come in the days of Rome, but He is coming in the days that are represented by the toes of the image—the nations that have come out of the country of Rome. When He comes, He is going to grind that image of world-wide power into dust. He is going to dash the unsaved world into pieces.

We read: "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." — Phil. 2:10, 11.

When Jesus comes, every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Beloved, He is going to reign over this earth.

IV.

SATAN.

When the Lord Jesus Christ comes, He is going to destroy the Devil. We talk about the finished work of Jesus Christ at the cross, and that is wonderful. I like to rejoice in this fact, that Jesus Christ did finish His work at the cross. But there are some things that Jesus Christ didn't finish at the cross, and one thing is, He didn't finish His work with the Devil. He began to end the work of the Devil, but He didn't finish it.

If you will go back to the third chapter of Genesis you will find that He is going to bruise the head of the serpent. Beloved, He began to do it at the cross. Listen:

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might DESTROY HIM that had the power of death, that is, the DEVIL." — Heb. 2:14.

The Lord Jesus Christ began

WAIT TIL YOU HEAR THIS!

"Sure, go ahead and marry him, but make him promise to take you to the Bible Conference of Calvary Baptist Church in Ashland, Kentucky over the Labor Day Weekend. If he won't do that, he ain't worth having!"



to destroy the Devil at Calvary, but He hasn't completed it yet. He has left him here in this world, and the Devil right now brings a lot of hardship and grief to you and me. I think our Lord has left him here in order that through these trials of faith and manifold temptations that we have, we are brought a little closer to our Lord, and we are made to be more like Him. But there is a day coming when Jesus Christ is going to be completely victorious over the Devil. Listen:

"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. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." — Rev. 20:3, 10.

It sounds like it will be a long time until the Lord Jesus Christ gets rid of the Devil. We rub elbows and brush shoulders with him every day. There isn't a day that goes by but that we come face to face with the Devil and this world. But some of these days Jesus is going to finish His work with the Devil. He is going to completely destroy him, and cast him into Hell.

CONCLUSION

Beloved, it is a glorious thing to look forward to the coming of Jesus Christ. Someone is coming, and I rejoice that when He comes, all this and much more is

going to take place. There is a glorious day awaiting the child of God.

I ask you, are you ready for His coming? Are you ready for Jesus Christ to come back to this world? As a Christian, are you ready? Suppose you thought He would come before morning. Is there anything you would like to pray about? You had better do your praying, for He may come. Are you behind on anything? You had better get caught up, for He is coming.

Years ago when I was just a boy preacher I made my first trip up Big Sandy to the headwaters of the river. About the only way you could go in those days was on a train or a pushboat, and since the pushboat was too slow, I went by train. I can remember a girl got on the train here, and she sat in front of me all the way up the river.

That was in the days before air-conditioned trains. It was a hot blistering day, and I can remember that most everybody had his window open. It sounds strange talking about riding along on a train with the windows open and people hanging out the windows trying to get a little fresh air, but in those days you were happy to get the window open, and get your head on the outside, so as to get some fresh air. But when you did so, the cinders would blow back to cover you and with the sweat you already had on your face and on your clothes, it looked like—well, it looked like you had been integrated and the integration had rubbed off.

I'll never forget that day. I was on my way to Jenkins to preach a trial sermon, hoping that they would call me as pastor. This girl who sat in front of me told me that she was going to meet her sweetheart, and they were going to get married. When we neared the end of the ride I can remember how unsightly she looked as a result of the sweat, and the grime, and the cinders. I am satisfied that she didn't want her sweetheart to see her like she looked, and just before we got to the end of the line, she went to the washroom to tidy herself, and changed clothes. When she came back, she looked entirely different. There was a great difference so far as her appearance was concerned. As I looked at her, I thought, she has tidied herself up because she is going to meet her sweetheart.

Beloved, that is exactly what you and I ought to do as God's children. We ought to tidy ourselves up. We ought to be getting ourselves ready for His return.

I ask those of you who are unsaved, are you ready for His return? Of course you are not, and He is going to reign over you, and He is going to make you His footstool some of these days, when He comes.

May God help you to realize that the only way that you can be ready, is to be saved, and may the blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, become precious to your soul, and may you become a child of God—saved, washed in His blood and ready to meet Him when He comes.

May God bless you!

Fred W. Roberts

(Continued from page one) he tripped when close to the fire. He fell and his right hand landed in the middle of the fire, but it had been out for a good while so he didn't get burned for which we really thank the Lord.

The following morning we arose early and after a bite to eat, we went for a walk down

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PAGE SIX

"I Should Like to Know"

Is it possible for a man to be saved, then get his theology twisted up and get the idea that keeping the commandments is necessary to salvation?

The Galatians did that very thing.

Is an unmarried man qualified for a deacon?

I do not think so.

Is a man whose wife is of another faith, qualified for a deacon?

I do not think so.

Would you help to ordain a preacher who holds to the universal, invisible church theory?

Not if I knew it — I never

have knowingly done so.

Did not God purpose to save those whom He saves, before He saves them?

Certainly — He elected them before the foundation of the world and wrote their names in the Book of Life; Eph. 1:4; II Thess. 2:13, 14; Rev. 17:8; many other Scriptures might be given.

Will God save all He purposed to save?

The Bible says that all that God foreknew will be glorified. — Rom. 8:28-30.

Did God purpose to save all of Adam's race?

Certainly not; only a remnant. — Rom. 11:5; 2 Tim. 2:10.

If death came as the curse of sin upon man, why do the beasts die?

Because "the whole creation" was cursed as the result of man's sin.

If all things were ordained before the foundation of the world, how did Adam and Eve sin when they ate of the forbidden fruit, when it was ordained that they should eat of it?

It wasn't ordained that they should eat it; there are some things that God purposes and some that He permits; that was one of the things that God permitted; God is in nowise responsible for man's sin.

How may one be a true witness of the Lord Jesus Christ?

He must be saved — he must love the Word of God — he must live it — and tell it everywhere he goes.



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Fred W. Roberts

(Continued from page six)

"koro." We had corn, bamboo shoots, sweet potatoes, beans, and our canned meat. It was a very delicious meal. Karen and Paul both enjoyed the food cooked that way very well. This meal was finished with some tea and fruit cake. The fruit cake was cooked and canned by the women of Brother Phillip's church in Bristol, Tennessee. It was very good.

That evening I studied the Bible (Duna) for the services the following day. The next morning we were up early and I began to prepare for the departure as Karen prepared breakfast. After breakfast, we were ready to leave by eight o'clock. As Karen is not used to walking as I am, I told her to go on. Before leaving the area, I held services. It was early in the morning, but there was a very good attendance. I preached on the subject of "What happens when a Christian sins?" The message was well received.

When I left there, I was headed about halfway home to a river where fifteen people from another church were to be baptized. That church had authorized me to conduct the baptism of those people. The baptismal service was known of by most of the people where we spent the weekend, so when the service was over many people went with me to the place where the baptism was to be held.

On Friday, at this church I had preached on Baptist history. As we were walking down the road, we passed a Catholic church, and some of the natives began to talk

of the message I had preached on Friday. I was enabled by God to augment that knowledge by being able to answer some questions they had as well as add more to what I had preached in several cases. I could have added much more I'm sure, but it is very difficult at this time to understand Duna so there was a good deal said which I didn't understand, and consequently, I was unable to comment on these things.

We arrived at the place to baptize in good time. However, we went on home, and I came back with Brother Halliman due to a mix-up. There were around four hundred people present for this service. After prayer, one song, and short message, I baptized the fifteen natives. Brother Halliman took pictures so I plan to write more on the baptismal service later.

Karen and Paul both enjoyed the patrol very much. We were very happy that Karen had no trouble walking on the patrol and no sore legs. We enjoyed the patrol, but we were all glad to get home again.

Mourner's Bench

(Continued from page one)
the mourner's bench is because it is not old fashioned enough.

It is not as old as the Scriptures. Beloved, Baptists are an old-fashioned people. They insist on getting their doctrines and practices from the Word of God. Anything that is not as old as the Bible is just not old fashioned

enough for sound Baptists.

"And as many as were ordained to eternal life believed."—Acts 13:48.

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

The Scripture says nothing at all about the mourner's bench as the way to be saved. These verses teach that some have been ordained to eternal life, and that they will believe. When Paul was asked what to do to be saved, he did not say "Go to the mourner's bench and pray through"; but "Believe." Now this is the Bible way of salvation. We might call it the old fashioned Bible way. It is surely much older than the mourner's bench. There is not one verse of Scripture anywhere that even remotely suggests, infers, or implies that we should use, have, or countenance a mourner's bench. Until its advocates come forth with some Bible proof, sound Baptists will continue to reject and oppose the mourner's bench. The mourner's bench is a recent innovation. It was started by man, and is over 1700 years too young to be the New Testament way of leading sinners to Christ.

II.

The mourner's bench is often confused with the Old Testament altar. Sinners are invited to come to an "old fashioned altar of prayer." Brethren, the Old Testament altar was not a place of prayer—a place where sinners wept their way through to God—but a place of sacrifice. It was where the slain animal, or part thereof, was burned as an offer-

ing to God. The New Testament fulfillment of the altar is not a mourner's bench, but the cross where Christ died for the sins of His elect people. It is true, that one must come in faith to trust in the death of Christ and the Christ who died—it is true that "The way of the cross leads home"—but this has nothing at all to do with the mourner's bench. People who use this terminology and try to connect man's mourner's bench with God's altar are either inexcusably ignorant or deliberate deceivers.

III.

Let us notice some of the many heresies that are the foundation of the mourner's bench. I tell you frankly and emphatically, that no man can believe the truth about how God saves sinners and believe in the mourner's bench.

The mourner's bench heresy is based upon a denial of the Biblical doctrine of total depravity. The Bible teaches again and again that man is a totally depraved creature—that from the crown of his head to the sole of his foot there is no soundness in him—that every faculty and every part of man is filthy, vile, wicked, and utterly depraved in God's sight.

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins."—Eph. 2:1.

Now man, in his total depravity, is utterly dead—yes, even as dead as a door nail—as far as the things of God are concerned. Now, how can a dead man come to a mourner's bench when such coming implies that he has a thirst, and hunger for, and a desire to seek God's salvation? Who ever saw a dead man that was hungry and thirsty? If we believe what the Bible teaches about the lost man's nature and condition, we would know that it is utterly useless to invite him to come to a place to seek salvation. Actually, if the mourner's bench was what it claims to be, the sinner would have to have life before he would come to the bench and thus would not need to come. If the sinner had what he needed to cause him to come to what the mourner's bench claims to be, then he would not need to come; so either way the mourner's bench would be useless. The preacher who preaches and practices the mourner's bench just does not believe in Total Depravity, no matter what he claims about it.

The mourner's bench heresy is based upon a denial of the Biblical teaching that God heareth not sinners.

"Now we know that God heareth not sinners."—John 9:31.

"The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord."—Prov. 15:8.

These verses clearly teach that God does not hear sinners. That if the sinner does go to the mourner's bench and stay ever so long, and cry out ever so loud, and all the congregation go and help him, still God will not go contrary to His own word—He will not hear. Prayer is the peculiar privilege of the child of God. It is not the privilege of all men. Are we going to say

that a man can reject Jesus Christ, trample on the blood of the Son of God, rebel against God's revealed way of salvation; and yet be saved in a way contrary to that of God's appointing. If man believes in Christ, he is already saved and does not need a mourner's bench. If he doesn't believe in Christ, he can stay at the mourner's bench until the last trump sounds, and then go to Hell. No amount of time or intensity of effort at the mourner's bench will avail for the Christ rejector, and the one who receives Christ is already saved without a mourner's bench.

Those few Scriptures that the advocates of "praying through" use, simply teach that prayer is the evidence and result of God given faith, and not the procuring cause of said faith. This truth that God hears not sinners should stop you from teaching your unsaved children to say their prayers or ask the blessing. Teach them that they are lost, totally depraved sinners, and that God will not hear their prayers until they are born-again children of God. Urge them to trust Jesus Christ as their Saviour, but do not teach them to pray until they are saved. After all, prayer is one of the very greatest of the privileges of a child of God and if one can have this privilege without salvation, what is the use of being born again?

The mourner's bench heresy is based upon a false impression of God's love for His elect. The impression given by the mourner's bench is that God doesn't want to save a person, but if the sinner will pray long enough and hard enough and get others to help him, that they will overcome God's reluctance and get God willing to save man. Now, beloved, if this is not heresy, what in the world is it? God has an elect people. The Holy Spirit using the Word at the appointed time gives the elect the desire to be saved and causes him to trust in the Saviour. The sinner's desire to be saved is the result of the love of God and the work of the Spirit. Certainly God will eternally save every one in whom He places that desire. There can be no greater heresy as to how God saves a sinner than that which is clearly implied in the mourner's bench. The mourner's bench is a slam on the character of God Almighty. The man who believes in the mourner's bench has a false opinion of the God of the Bible.

The mourner's bench heresy is based upon the idea that others can help in a man's salvation. How often the believers in the congregation are urged to come and help the man pray through. And the preacher gets very angry if others will not follow his heresy and confirm the sinner in his error and help the poor sinner pray through. But, beloved, salvation is a matter between the individual and the Saviour. I can witness to a man. I can (Continued on page 8, column 3)

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PAGE SEVEN



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Professing Christians

(Continued from page one)
ing a revival. They shed crocodile tears—they go forward and reconsecrate themselves—they show great interest, but when the revival is over, they cool off in about a couple of weeks, and then it is “goodbye” until the next revival.

The evergreen Christian. (See I Cor. 15:58) He is the fellow who is saved and who follows in baptism and church membership. He starts in attending the services and he is eager to learn the Bible. He grows and thrives as a Christian. He readily serves in any capacity. He starts right in putting his money into the cause of Christ. He permits the Word of God to correct his life of any habits not pleasing to Christ. He doesn't have to be “pumped up” like a leaky tube—he continues steadfast, proving by his life, service and behavior that something vital has taken place in his life. One Christian like this is

worth a dozen mere professors. Note some things about him.

He doesn't have to be put to work. He FINDS work, as the Lord leads him. Much of the activities around a church are like the government W. P. A. work of depression days. It is artificially made work. The theory is that everybody should be kept busy—even if it is at doing something which the Bible does not authorize at all. Any Christian who wants to do something worth while can get busy at soul winning.

He isn't spasmodic—he is right on the job all the time. People who attend church spasmodically are not worth much as a rule. Between “spasms” they do nothing.

He is a fervent Christian. (Rom. 12:11) Enough Christians of that kind make for a live church. Things are not draggy and mopy around a church where there are enough people “fervent in spirit.” Fervency and stiff formality can't get along to-

gether. Fervency disgusts formalists, and formality worse than disgusts fervency.

The “evergreen Christian” keeps his experience up to date. He isn't forever going back to his conversion for an experience to relate. He has a daily experience. It takes daily contact with God—daily dependence upon Him—daily help from Him, to lead a vital, fervent, Christian life.



Mourner's Bench

(Continued from page seven)
pray for Him. That's all I can do. I can't save or help save him.

The mourner's bench heresy is based upon the idea that works can save or help save the soul. That if a man will work long enough and hard enough down at the mourner's bench, he will get saved. Brother, mourner's benchism is not a thing in the world but works for salvation. And sometimes it is hard work. I have seen them hard at work, screaming and hollering, sweating and laboring, spending much time, going back again and again until finally they felt like they were saved. “Hold on, sister, don't let go.” “Promise God that if He will save you, you will do anything.” “Let go, sister, just let go.” “Do you feel like you are saved?” What rubbish! What heresy!

The mourners' bench heresy is based upon a denial of salvation

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by grace. Beloved, a man is saved by the sovereign, predestinating, effectual, eternal grace of God. Grace only and grace completely, is the Bible way of salvation. No man who believes in a mourner's bench believes in salvation by grace. He may talk about it, and he may sing about it, but he does not believe it. In fact, when a church puts in a mourner's bench, they ought to tear “Amazing Grace” out of their song books and Eph. 2:8, plus many others out of their Bibles.

The mourner's bench leads men to trust in something other than Christ and His finished work on the cross for salvation. Now this is a sure road to hell. Christ is the one and only way of salvation. Anything that comes between the sinner and Christ and leads the sinner away from Christ is certainly not of God and is an exceedingly wicked and dangerous heresy.

The mourner's bench gives a false basis of assurance for salvation. “Do you feel like you are saved?” This is the stock question around the mourner's bench. Who among us can tell exactly how it feels to be saved? What verses can we use to show the characteristics of that feeling that one is saved that would distinguish between a true and a false feeling. How ridiculous? Our assurance is based upon the Word of God.

“These things have I written to you that believe on the name

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN...?

“Why are you weeping so, My child?
Why are your eyes so filled with tears?
Is it because the road is long and dark
And nowhere does the light appear?

Are you convinced that all your pain
And all your suffering you go through
And all the anguish of your soul
Are only borne by you?

Have you forgotten that your Lord
In love once said: ‘Come unto Me’?
‘The cross you bear I'll gladly share
And My salvation you shall see!’

Or do you think that I don't know
And felt the ravages of sin
When sinners nailed Me to the Cross,
And all was very dark within?

For you, My child, all this was done;
For you I gave My life, My all,
And should I leave you now alone
And fail to hear you when you call?

Oh trust in Me; be not dismayed,
Your Lord does know what's best for you,
And one day you will understand
And share my endless glory, too!”

of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life.”
—I John 5:13.

Yes, we believe in assurance. Thank God for assurance. We are not Hardshells with their “hope so.” But our assurance is based on the sure, eternal, unchangeable Word of God, and not on changeable feelings of the flesh.

The mourner's bench robs God of the glory that is due Him in salvation. God says that His glory He will not give to another, and He surely is not going to give it to a piece of wood called the mourner's bench. God will save a man in such a way as to get all the glory or God will let man go to Hell. These ways devised by man are all planned so as to give all or part of the glory to man. This is the sure evidence that they are not of God, for whatsoever God does, He does for His own glory. How men glory in the experience they had at the mourner's bench! How they sing and testify about the mourner's bench! This robbing God of His glory is sure evidence that the mourner's bench is not of God, but is a wicked heresy of man.

The mourner's bench will lead many into Hell while they trust in a false god for salvation. The man who is trusting his mourner's bench experience is not trusting in Christ and is not saved. Yes, the mourner's bench is an idol god. Just as much so as the idols of heathen lands to which the heathen pray. In my Bible reading today, I read “Thou shalt not put a stumbling block before the blind.”—Lev. 19:14. How wicked it would be to see a blind man walking along and deliberately put a stumbling block before him. This is exactly what every preacher and practitioner of the mourner's bench does. The sinner is blind. The false preacher puts before this blind sinner the mourner's bench and the blind sinner stumbles over that into Hell unless enlightened by God's sovereign and irresistible grace. Mourner's benchism is a clear case of “The blind leading the blind.”

What should true believers do relative to this heresy? They certainly should see to it that the mourner's bench is removed from their churches. If you are a sound Baptist, you should seek to have such a heresy removed from your church. If you can't get this done, you should leave such church and find one where this heresy is not practiced. No sound Baptist should be a member of a church with a mourner's bench in it. But more than this, I wonder if you are a sound Baptist if you are a member of

such a church. I wonder if should remain in such a church even if they removed the god, because I wonder how they could have been if they it, to start with. Sound Baptists should take a strong stand against this heresy. We should use strong language and not be silent even though it costs dearly. Let Rome and her lot daughters have their gods fashioned by the hands of men, but let Baptists ever be to God's precious Word. Sound Baptists should take a strong uncompromising stand for doctrines of God's Sovereign saving grace. Mourner's bench heresy cannot survive with strong preaching of God's grace. One or the other will soon be gone. God bless you all.



Appreciated Letters

(Continued from page one)
Lord bless you and them in very great work. There is not all are doing that I know of.
Hershel Williams
(Ky.)

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