

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

VOL. 39, No. 41

ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, NOVEMBER 21, 1970

WHOLE NUMBER 1663

THE CHRISTIAN AND SECRET SOCIETIES

By WENDELL P. LOVELESS
Ex-Chaplain of Masonic Lodge,
Wheaton, Illinois

I was regularly initiated into seven degrees of the Masonic Order, holding, for a time, the office of Chaplain in the Blue Lodge, and my knowledge of this society is therefore the result of my experience as a member of it. I now hold a regular demit from the order, which indicates that I was in good and regular standing when I seceded from it.

When I came to see clearly that which the Lord Jesus Christ had done for me on Calvary, and realized my tremendous responsibility as a witness, as an ambassador of Christ, I could no longer remain in Masonry, and several of the reasons are expressed in the following pages.

The Lodge In Practice Is Foolish

In the first place, the lodge, in PRACTICE is foolish: It has a secret or group of secrets; why make it secret? Such a meeting enjoys the protection of the laws

of the land; it has a right to assemble; why, is it necessary to have it secret? Then, too, the activities of some of the lodges in public parade and in convention are exceedingly foolish. Every normal individual believes in good, wholesome fun, but the Christian should remember that the Holy Spirit indwells him. How difficult to imagine the Apostle Paul dressed up in these silly costumes, or the Lord Jesus donning some of the outfits worn in connection with certain conclaves and conventions and initiation rites of lodges. Paul said, "When I was a child I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child, but when I became a man, I put away childish things" (I Cor. 13:11). While the world may do many of these things the Christian cannot do them.

The Lodge In Principle Is Selfish

Again, in PRINCIPLE the lodge is selfish. The lodge takes many a man from home when he should be there. It indulges in selfish pleasure, and is expensive in time

and money. The argument is often advanced that membership in the lodge helps men to progress, and I am sorry to say that some ministers in candidating for a pastorate wear their emblem of the secret order that they may get the place. The charity and good deeds of the lodge are often cited, as are also its homes, and the money it gives away. The lodge gets paid for all the help it gives to members, for it collects it in dues. Insurance companies pay benefits without boasting about it; yet the secret orders parade their benevolence and charitable activities as if it were a real sacrifice.

The obligations which the candidate has to assume upon initiation are selfish. He promises — "I do furthermore promise and (Continued on page 6, column 1)

HUMAN EGO, TRULY OUR GREATEST ENEMY

By ROY MASON
Aripeka, Florida

With most of us, Christ has no bigger enemy than SELF. That's why He said, "If any man would follow me, let him DENY HIMSELF and take up his cross and follow me." (Matt. 16:24). A careful analysis will reveal to



ROY MASON

many people that their Christian service is more motivated by self than it is by real love for Christ and unselfish devotion to His cause. Many who suppose that they are mighty good, devoted, servants of Christ, are in reality egotists who would throw the Lord over if the test came, in order to preserve their ego. (Continued on page 7, column 2)

A Blessed Experience In Standing For The Truth

JOE WILSON
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

"I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord." — Amos 8:11.

It was around a year ago, I believe, that this experience began. It involves a dear sister in the Lord — a Mrs. James of Rocky Mount, N.C. I arose to preach one Sunday morning, and we had a visitor in our midst, or rather two of them. They came in late and I had not gotten to meet them. They were Mrs. James and her son, Brent. I was preaching on "Total Depravity" that morning and thought to myself as I began that this sermon would be the end of these two visitors. I have learned that sound doctrine often thins out the visitors in our services.

After the service, I met Mrs. James who told me they were from Rocky Mount. I assumed they were visiting friends or relatives in the city and had decided to visit our church. But Mrs. James informed me that they had come the one hundred and fifty miles to visit our church. We invited this sister and her son home with us for a visit. We talked much of the things of the Lord, and I learned that Mrs. James had sat under the ministry of the late greatly beloved T. P. Simmons in her early years, and had long been a reader of The Baptist Examiner. She was a great lover of the truths taught in TBE, a supporter of the paper and a

supporter of New Guinea missions.

I learned that at her church she learned much about the precious truths of God's grace from her pastor who is a very able expounder of these truths. But that her pastor did not believe Premillennialism and especially church doctrine as taught in TBE



JOE WILSON

which is, of course the position I hold and teach. In her early years and through TBE she had learned to dearly love church truth as we stand for it, and was very hungry for this, and was greatly disturbed about her membership in a church that did not in anywise believe these doctrines about the Lord's church.

On her first visit, I just talked (Continued on page 3, column 2)

Christ And The Cross, The Hope Of The World

PREACHED AT CALVARY'S 1969 CONFERENCE

ELDER WAYNE COX
Memphis, Tennessee

"But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God."—I Cor. 1:24.

From personal observation the world's masses have no hope. For a number of years, and up until 1966, I visited in a number of foreign countries every year and preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If you for one moment entertain the idea that foreign countries do not have any religion you are in error. There is religion on every side but I would

becomes evident on every hand, we are suddenly faced with the inevitable and undeniable and indisputable fact that the vast majority of the population of this country and the world not only have no hope, but never will perhaps have any.

I do not mean to sound pessimistic, for I am an optimistic person. I believe, of course, that every one that God gave to Jesus Christ in the covenant of redemption will, without the loss of a single one, come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Master and Saviour. On the other hand I know that we, as God's children, have a tremendous and awesome responsibility to get the Gospel to the masses. We must assume this responsibility that is incumbent upon us as children of God and certainly as ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The preaching of the Gospel is an awesome responsibility. During this Conference I have heard one particular text referred to a number of times and that is (Continued on page 4, column 4)



WAYNE COX

like to emphasize this one thing. There is no more religion in foreign countries than in this country of ours. In the foreign countries that I have visited (and I have visited a number of them and did so for a number of years consecutively) that need the Gospel of Jesus Christ, this country in which we live, needs it just as badly, if not worse. For the masses in America today are just as lost as the masses in other nations. And the only hope that any man can have, and certainly the hope of the world, rests in the person of Jesus Christ. The sad thing about it is as you look about you and see the depravity of man as it manifests itself and

"That the wicked is reserved to the day of destruction? They shall be brought forth to the day of wrath."—Job. 21:30.

I think you will agree with me that we are living in a very, very wicked world. I don't think there is any question but that wickedness, and immorality, vice, and sin of every kind is more rampant today than ever before in the history of the world. I repeat when I say that we are living in a very, very wicked age.

I can remember the days of World War I, how that people went to church and prayed for the end of the war. I can remember how there came a na-

tion-wide flu epidemic that caused churches and businesses to be closed, with the result that people prayed, even if they didn't get to go to church. They prayed, and prayed constantly, for the war to come to an end. As a little boy in my early teens, I remember thinking that surely everybody is going to be more religious when this war comes to an end. I thought surely with the way in which the people were praying for the war to end, certainly people will be far more Spiritual-minded when the hostility ceases. Would you believe it when the war came to an end and the hostility ceased, and

Reprint Of The Editor's Letter To Life Magazine

This is a letter to the editor of LIFE, written twenty-three years ago. It is reprinted by request. In tract form at \$1.50 per hundred.

December 9, 1947

Life,
540 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago 11, Illinois

Attention: Mr. Henry R. Luce,
Editor-in-Chief

Mr. Dear Sir:

Ever since LIFE became a weekly publication, I have been both a subscriber and a reader, and have appreciated very definitely both your pictorial and verbal descriptions of current news.

However, I must differ radically with you as to the "family tree" of Catholicism and Protestantism as shown on Page 122 of the November 10, 1947, issue of LIFE.

In this, you make Baptists to originate about the year 1609, and through your ingenious "family tree" you very skillfully show that all denominations have come from Catholic Christendom, or in other words, you make the

Catholic Church to be a sort of mother church.

My dear sir, there isn't an historian, either sacred or secular, of any degree of reputation whom you might quote in justification of the purported facts of your "family tree." In fact, the entirety of it, as far as Baptists are concerned, is a gross perversion. It is true that the Catholic Church is the mother or grandmother of all Protestant churches. Yet, Baptists are not and never were, Protestants. Baptists did not originate in 1609, and neither is Catholic Christendom the oldest church.

I desire to categorically aver and unconditionally assert that Baptist Churches were established in the days of the Lord Jesus during the time of His ministry in the country of Palestine. With Jesus as their Founder, and the Bible as their textbook, Baptist Churches have existed since the day of Jesus' memorable utterance, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."—Matthew 16:18.

Ypeij and Dermout, eminent historians of the Dutch Reformed Church, say: "The Baptists may be considered as the only Christian community that has stood since the days of the apostles, and as a Christian society has preserved pure the doctrines of the Gospel THROUGH ALL AGES."

Alexander Campbell, who hated Baptists perhaps more than any man within the past century, wrote: "The sentiments of Baptists and their practice of baptism FROM THE APOSTOLIC AGE to the present, have had a continued chain of advocates, and public monuments of their existence in every century can be produced."

Robert Barclay, a Quaker historian, says of Baptists: "We shall afterward show that the rise of the Anabaptists took place PRIOR to the reformation of the Church of England, and there are also reasons for believing that on the continent of Europe, small hidden Christian societies, who (Continued on page 3, column 5)

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor John R. Gilpin

"WHY DOESN'T GOD BLOT OUT THE WICKED?"

"That the wicked is reserved to the day of destruction? They shall be brought forth to the day of wrath."—Job. 21:30.

I think you will agree with me that we are living in a very, very wicked world. I don't think there is any question but that wickedness, and immorality, vice, and sin of every kind is more rampant today than ever before in the history of the world. I repeat when I say that we are living in a very, very wicked age.

I can remember the days of World War I, how that people went to church and prayed for the end of the war. I can remember how there came a na-

tion-wide flu epidemic that caused churches and businesses to be closed, with the result that people prayed, even if they didn't get to go to church. They prayed, and prayed constantly, for the war to come to an end. As a little boy in my early teens, I remember thinking that surely everybody is going to be more religious when this war comes to an end. I thought surely with the way in which the people were praying for the war to end, certainly people will be far more Spiritual-minded when the hostility ceases. Would you believe it when the war came to an end and the hostility ceased, and

the armistice was signed, that the next day the newspapers announced a new dance called the Victory Ball? All over America, a dance was held commemorating the victory that had been won, and they danced the new dance step called the Victory Ball.

I say, beloved, to me that is an evidence of the depravity of this world — praying to God to end the war, and then slapping God in the face with an act of sin as soon as the war was ended.

Or you might think of it in this respect: When an old year (Continued on page 2, column 1)

The Baptist Examiner

The Baptist Paper for the Baptist People

JOHN R. GILPIN.....Editor

Editorial Department, located in ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, where all subscriptions and communications should be sent. Address: P. O. Box 910, zip code 41101.

Published weekly, with paid circulation in every state and many foreign countries.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One year — \$2.00; Two years — \$3.50
Five years — \$7.00; Life — \$25.00
CLUB RATES: 15 or more — each \$1.50

When you subscribe for others or secure subscriptions — each \$1.50

BUNDLES: 10 to 50 copies to one address \$10.00 for each 10 yearly; 60 to 100 copies to one address, \$9.00 for each 10 yearly.

FOREIGN: Same as in the United States.

PLANNING TO MOVE? Notify us three weeks in advance. The Post Office does not forward second class mail and they charge us 10c for each "change of address" notice. Please save us this expense.

Entered as second class matter MAY 9, 1961, in the post office at Ashland, Kentucky, under the act of March 3, 1879.

"Blot Out... Wicked"

(Continued from page one)

comes to an end and a new year begins to dawn, there is more whiskey, beer, wine, vodka, and gin sold over New Year's holiday than any other comparable season of the year. One man, who is a Catholic friend of mine said, "Oh, no, I never drink at Easter, my Lord's saddest hour. I couldn't think of catering to the flesh at the Easter season." He said, "The same is true at Xmas. When I think about Jesus being born, I couldn't drink at Xmas." "But," he said, "watch out when New Year's comes. I pull out all the stops so far as I am concerned. That is the time to cut loose."

Starting a New Year, we ought to start it thinking about God, but as this Catholic friend said, "To me that is the time to pull out all the stops and have a big time."

Beloved, I can stand here and give you multiplied illustration after illustration to say to you that we are living in a very, very wicked age. But I needn't do that. You know it by reading the newspapers. You know it by watching television. You know it by the radio. You know that today the world is going to Hell in high gear, and when I say going to Hell, I mean exactly that, for the end of the wicked age is Hell. Listen:

"The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name." — Rev. 14:10, 11.

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

I repeat, beloved, we are living in a world today that is filled with strife and iniquity of all kinds, and at the end of this wicked age is a lake of fire, and Hell. In view of this, I ask, why doesn't God blot out the wicked today? If the world is wicked, if the world is going to Hell in high gear, and if ultimately there is a Hell awaiting the unsaved, then why doesn't God blot out the wicked today? I have five answers to this question.

I

GOD DOES NOT BLOT OUT THE WICKED TODAY BECAUSE THIS IS THE DAY OF

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

NOVEMBER 21, 1970

PAGE TWO

GRACE AND MERCY.

Jesus said:

"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, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book." — Luke 4:18-20.

If you will notice, Jesus was then in the synagogue at Nazareth. He went into the synagogue, as the Word of God says, as His custom was, and on this particular Sabbath Day He stood up to read, and this is what He read. Now where was it that the Lord Jesus read? Of course you know that it was not in the New Testament, because it hadn't been written. It had to be the Old Testament. And what did He read. Listen:

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." — Isa. 61:1, 2.

If you will notice, that is where Jesus stopped. In Luke 4:19, He said, "To preach the acceptable year of the Lord." Then He closed the book, stopping right in the middle of the verse. The last part of Isaiah 61:1, 2, says: "To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God," but Jesus closed the book at the end of that expression, "to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." Why? Because this isn't the day of vengeance of our Lord. This is the day of grace. This is the day of mercy.

Why doesn't God blot out this world? In the days of Lot, God blotted out that civilization around the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their sinfulness. In the days of Noah, God brought a flood that wiped out of existence a world that had nearly as many people in it as this world has today. Why doesn't God blot out of existence today the people of this world? I will tell you why. This is the day of grace and mercy.

Jesus said, when He went into the synagogue, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me." He mentioned certain things He was to do, and the last thing that He mentioned was "to preach the acceptable year of the Lord," and He closed the book. Right then and there, He closed it because this is not the day of vengeance with God. It is the day of grace. This is the day of grace.

Notice again:

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

Beloved, this is the day of salvation. This is the day of grace. This is the day of mercy.

Every once in a while when two armies are engaged in battle, they will cease fire and withhold their hostilities for a time being, thinking that maybe a peaceful settlement might be found for the war. It may be only a temporary truce. It may be only one that will last for a few hours or a few days, but nevertheless it is a truce for a time being. The hostilities cease and the fighting is withheld, hoping for peace on each side.

Beloved, that is exactly what God has done today in behalf of those who are unsaved. God, I say, has seen to it that the day of vengeance of the Lord is still yet to come. There is a temporary armistice, a temporary truce, a temporary peace in behalf of the unsaved.

Lost man, lost woman, why doesn't God blot you out? Why doesn't God cast you into Hell today? I will tell you why. Because God in His mercy has granted that this shall be a day of grace and a day of mercy. God is willing for His elect to be garnered in.

For one, I will say that I am

awfully glad that God is waiting. If God hadn't waited for me, oh, what might have been the outcome! Thinking about it from your standpoint, aren't you glad that this isn't a day of vengeance? You who are saved, as I am, know that if God had cut you off before you were saved, it would have been a Devil's Hell for you, but thank God, He is letting the wicked go on, because this is a day of grace and mercy.

II

GOD DOES NOT BLOT OUT THE WICKED TODAY BECAUSE HE IS NEVER IN A HURRY.

You and I get in a hurry sometimes. Usually we get into trouble when we get in a hurry.

I was in a home sometime ago and the grandmother got in a hurry to give a grandchild a piece of fried chicken before the meal began and the grandmother ended up in the hospital with a broken leg hurrying to get the grandson a piece of fried chicken before the lunch began.

We get in a hurry, but God doesn't. Listen;

"Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." — Eccl. 8:11.

Why do men go on in evil? Why do people persist in evil? I will tell you. Because God just takes His time. God is never in a hurry. God's sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, and therefore the wicked go right on in their sin.

I will imagine it this way: Here is a boy who is quite obstreperous and he does things that are wrong. In the early morning, his mother promises him: "Because of what you have done, I am going to give you a whipping. I haven't time right now, but I am going to give you a whipping because of what you have done." He may think for a few minutes about it and then forget about it. He may think that his mother has forgotten about it too. He thinks in all probability that his mother has forgotten all about that whipping and goes on through the day forgetful of it. But before night comes, his mother gets out the switch and she dresses him down from one end to the other. She wasn't in a hurry. She got to it in her own time.

God is never in a hurry to send the wicked to Hell.

I heard of a school teacher sometime ago that on the last day of school observed one of her boys doing something that was wrong and she didn't have time to whip him then. She said, "I will get you next year when school starts." On the first day of school she paddled him before she did anything else. I guess he forgot it in the summertime, and thought she would too, but she didn't.

Beloved, listen, God doesn't get in a hurry. That teacher could wait all summer. God can wait a long time too. Ultimately, God is going to blot out the unsaved.

III

GOD DOES NOT BLOT OUT THE WICKED TODAY BECAUSE THIS IS THE DAY OF REPENTANCE.

God is just winking at your sin today and allowing you to go on in your sin, because this is the day of repentance. Listen:

"And the times of this ignorance GOD WINKED at: but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead." — Acts 17:30, 31.

What is God doing now? He is just winking at your sin. Unsaved man, unsaved woman, remember this, He looks at you and winks. He looks the other way. He just lets you go ahead. He just lets you, as an unsaved person, do as you please today. I say this, the unsaved today are free to do as they please. God is just allowing the unsaved to go their merry way and to run their



wicked course. He is winking at sin. He commands the wicked now to repent because He has appointed a day in which He is going to judge them.

I say, beloved, God doesn't blot out the wicked right now. He doesn't blot out the wicked in this present day, because this is man's day for repentance. Listen: "But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God." — Rom. 2:5.

What is He doing, unsaved man? In your impenitence, with your lack of repentance, you are treasuring up unto yourself wrath against the day of wrath. This is a day of repentance, but if you don't repent, just like a man hoards his money, just like a man hoards his possessions that he has, you are just hoarding up God's wrath, you are treasuring it up into the day of wrath — unto the day when God is going to pour out His wrath upon you. Now is the day of repentance for you.

IV

HE DOES NOT BLOT OUT THE WICKED TODAY BECAUSE GOD IS GIVING OPPORTUNITY FOR HIS ELECT TO BE SAVED.

Aren't you glad that God didn't blot you out back yonder twenty or thirty years ago? Suppose God had blotted you out when you were 10 to 12 years old? You would have gone to Hell. As it is, God allowed you to go on until many of you have come to a knowledge of Jesus Christ as a Saviour. God is giving opportunity for all of His elect to be saved. 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.

The Arminians like to take this passage of Scripture and say that God is trying to save everybody. Listen, beloved, God doesn't try to do anything; God just does what He wills. Just remember this: God doesn't try to do anything; He does what He wills. The Arminians are all wrong when they say that God is trying to save people. This verse doesn't say that. This verse is talking about the "us-ward." Who are the "us-ward"? Go back to the first verse of this chapter and it says:

"This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds

by way of remembrance."

Who is He talking to? Saved people. He is talking about the elect of God. What does it say? It says that God is giving every opportunity for His elect to be saved.

Let's look at it from the standpoint of an illustration. God told Noah that the world was going to be destroyed with a flood of waters. I don't think that there had been a drop of water fall on the earth prior to the flood. There had been a mist go up from the ground to water the earth, but I don't think there had ever been one drop of water fall out of the heavens. God said, "Noah, you preach, and you tell them that I am going to send a flood. That ought to startle the people, because there has never been such a thing." The people went on in their wickedness. In their sin, they went on and on and on for years and years, until 120 years rolled by. I guess they looked at Noah's ark and laughed about it. I guess the people said, "Poor old Noah; poor old preacher." They made fun of him. They went their merry way and had a good time and forgot all about the warning, but when God got ready, the world was suddenly cut off. What did God do for 120 years? God gave an opportunity for His elect to be saved. How many were saved? Noah, his wife, their three sons and their wives — eight in all.

We get mighty discouraged sometimes when we think about how few are saved. I get awfully discouraged myself. I am sure that I could speak for many and many a preacher all over the country who tell us how discouraged he gets because there are so few saved under his ministry. Noah went for 120 years, and counting himself, there were only eight people saved. When God destroyed the world, there were only eight people saved in all that civilization — a civilization, nearly as great as our civilization, and with a population about as great as in our world today. There were only eight people saved out of it all.

Listen, beloved, God gave an opportunity for all of His elect to be saved in the days of Noah and suddenly the world was cut off. This is what God is doing today. Why doesn't God blot out this world? Why doesn't God blot you out? Why does God allow you to go on and have a home, and a job, and an opportunity to make a living? Why does God allow you the blessings that you have in this world? Why does (Continued on page 3, column 1)

JOHN GILL'S COMMENTARY

SIX VOLUMES — APPROXIMATELY 1000 PAGES PER VOLUME. MOST COMPREHENSIVE

COMMENTARY WRITTEN COVERING THE DOCTRINES OF GRACE.

ORDER FROM CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH BOOKSTORE

No Discount On Gill's Works

\$65.00

POSTPAID

"Blot Out . . . Wicked"

(Continued from page two)
God give you all the blessings that He does? I will tell you why. God is giving an opportunity for all of His people to be saved.

V

GOD DOES NOT BLOT OUT THE WICKED TODAY BECAUSE THE WORLD'S CUP OF INIQUITY IS NOT YET FULL.

We read:
"But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full." — Gen. 15:16.

God was talking to Abraham. He said, "Abraham, I am just waiting for the Amorites to fill up their cup of iniquity, and when their cup of iniquity is filled, I am going to destroy them. It will be 400 years yet." Beloved it was. The Jews went down into Egypt and stayed for 430 years, and when the Amorites' cup of iniquity was filled, the Jews came back out of the land of Egypt and God destroyed the Amorites, hip and thigh. God's Word tells us how that Joshua came into the central part of the land of Palestine and conquered it, then swung northward and swung southward and split the country into three parts and conquered it, and destroyed it, and killed the inhabitants. Oh, the most merciless slaughter of human beings that you could ever read about took place in that day when men and women, boys and girls, little children and babes were killed at God Almighty's command! Why? The cup of iniquity was full. God said, "It is time now to put an end to them."

Why doesn't God blot out the wicked? God is just waiting for this world's cup of iniquity to be filled.

Every once in a while some child gets a little bad in the services and I'll see some mother or father warn that child. But that child keeps on getting worse and worse, and that mother or father will start for the door. The child says, "I will be good. I will be good." But the day of judgment has come; it is too late then. Nothing but a spanking will do. The day of judgment has arrived.

Beloved, that is exactly the way that God is dealing with the unsaved today. As that mother or that daddy just allows that child to go so far and then takes the child out and spans him, God is saying to us today that the world's cup of iniquity is filling up and some of these days, when the world's cup of iniquity is filled, God is going to deal with the world just exactly like God dealt with the Amorites back yonder a long time ago.

CONCLUSION

In Isaiah 61:2, it says that He is going "to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord," and when Jesus read that in the synagogue at Nazareth, He stopped right there. But the next phrase says, "and the day of vengeance of our God."

This isn't the day of vengeance of our God, but the day of vengeance of our God is going to come. The Devil is having his inning now. This is his inning. Mark it down, the Devil is running rampant today. He is leading unsaved people astray today. He is having his way. This is the Devil's inning, but some of these days the last part of Isaiah 61:2 is going to be fulfilled, which

says, "The day of vengeance of our God."

Oh, you that are unsaved, may I say to you out of a heart that is burdened for you in view of your lost condition — may I say to you, you need Jesus Christ as your Saviour. This is the day of good tidings. This is the day when God is allowing you an opportunity to be saved. But some of these days, the day of vengeance is going to come. Listen:

"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night." — I Thess. 5:2.

Mark it down, Jesus Christ is coming. The day of vengeance is coming. The day is coming when unsaved people are going to be punished for their sins. Why doesn't God blot them out today? I have given you five reasons. Oh, might I point you to Calvary and say to you that God's antidote for sin is Calvary. Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay your sin debt. May you receive Him today and be saved.

May God bless you!



Blessed Experience

(Continued from page one)

in general about these truths, and after a short while she returned to Rocky Mount. Three weeks later, this dear sister was with us again in the services and again visited with us briefly after the service. She was greatly disturbed about church doctrines and about what she should do in this matter. From the start, I had my convictions about what she should do, but I at no time pressed them upon her. At this second visit, I did tell her that if she could not find peace in staying in her present church affiliation, that she ought to consider coming with us where she could be a member and support what she believed even though she could only attend about once a month. This dear lady will testify that, at no time, did I pressure her or belittle her preacher in any way. Her former pastor is a very fine preacher in many respects and one of the most able teachers of Grace I have heard. He does not believe, and does not pretend to believe what I believe about the Lord's church. I admire and respect this man and his stand for what he believes. He and I just do not agree on the doctrines of the church, and sister James from her early attendance upon Brother Simmons ministry, from her childhood training, from TBE, and as she and I believe, from the teaching of God's Word believes as I do about the church.

Well, things went on like this for a long period of time. Sister James would visit with us on occasion and at times would stop by our house for brief visits. My wife and I visited with her on one occasion. I told her what my convictions were as to what I should do in such a situation, but insisted that she must be led of the Lord and do what she wanted to do in the matter. I have finally learned to leave the matter of getting new members in the hands of the Lord. I know that if God does not bring folk to our church, they will not last. We are a ridiculed, hated, and persecuted people. Folk who do not come to us because they are sure God is leading them will not be able to bear the pressure. Oh, how I desire new members! How

many there are around here who ought to be with us — they have no excuse for being anywhere else. If they ever do what they should, if they ever stand as they should for what they believe the Bible teaches, they will be with us. I desire them. I long for them as members in our church. But I leave it in the hands of God to bring them.

At times I thought Sister James was ready to join with us. At least once she left home with that intention, and then did not. At times I felt that she would never join with us, but just visit occasionally. I was willing to leave it like that and be her friend right on. I did request that our members and other dear friends pray for her that God would show her what to do, and give her grace to do it. At times it seemed she was fairly well satisfied; at times she seemed miserable. She wrote and called us on occasion and visited our services at times. I prayed about it and left it with the Lord.

Then it happened. Praise God. On the second Sunday of this year, Sister James presented herself as a candidate for membership in Grace Baptist Church in whatever way we desired to receive her. We talked with her as we do with all who present themselves as candidates and then our men recommended her to the church which gladly received her as a member. We received her pending a letter, but upon investigating as to the organization of the church of which she had been a member and their practice as regards alien immersion, we learned that we could not receive her by letter and so set a time for a Baptismal Service.

On Feb. 15th, it was my great spiritual joy to bury our dear sister in the watery grave of baptism, and into the membership of Grace Baptist Church. How it blessed my heart! I had talked with her, prayed much for her, and requested others to pray for her, and now our prayers were answered, and we praised God for this.

I am sure that you can appreciate the plight of this dear soul. She lives 150 miles from Winston-Salem. She had been a member of her present church for several years. Her pastor was an able preacher and very faithful to the doctrines of Grace. All her close spiritual friends attended this church. Her family left the matter entirely up to her, but they would not desire to come with her in this step. Her son, Brent, has been most kind in driving her here to the services she has attended. He is a fine young man and we are praying much for him. Every argument of human reason and logic was against her moving her membership so far away. She was used to faithful attendance at church and did not want to be able to be in services only about once a month. I am sure that these arguments would have much weight with anyone in such a situation. Further, she stood alone in Rocky Mount in her position, and being a woman could not start a mission of any kind. (May God be pleased eventually from this beginning to develop a sound church in or near Rocky Mount). It was for these reasons, and because I do not practice it, that I did not urge her to move her membership with us. But in spite of all the arguments — in spite of the seeming absurdity of making a move — this dear sister could not find peace

of soul in staying where she was, and so after much soul searching (I am sure), after much hesitation and indecision, she felt that she must obey God and put her membership in a church that believed and practiced as she believed the Bible taught.

I would not say as to what finally pushed her to this decision. Her church did not believe as she did about the church. The universal church theory was pushed in that church. (And a man should push what he believes). I think that Christmas in her church may have been the thing that finally pushed her to a decision to stand for what she believed. Be that as it may, she had made her decision believing that God was leading her.

Now we know that is hard for her. We know that she will be the object of ridicule. We know that being in services so seldom will be hard on her. We know that the sacrifice of a 300 mile round trip to attend services will be hard. But I wish you could read her letter to me after her baptism. How she rejoiced in God leading and enabling her to make this move! How she rejoiced in her membership with us! How she rejoiced in her experience of baptism! We thank God for this dear sister. We value her as a member of our church. We know that when we meet, we pray for her, and she is thinking of, and praying for us.

Brethren, it is a shame, but it is a truth that the doctrines we preach and for which The Baptist Examiner stands are not being preached today. It is sad that a woman must journey so far to be a member of a church that preaches these truths. Yet this is a fulfilling of the Word of God. So I am sad that this dear sister must make a move like this, and, at the same time, I rejoice that God has made her willing, and enabled her to do so.

Here is my conviction, without any qualifications, that folk ought to be members of churches that stand consistently for the truths of God's Word. That if God has shown you these things as true, you are automatically obligated to get in a church that stands for them. **YOU DO NOT NEED ANY FURTHER LEADING.** The fact that God has shown you the truth is all the leading you should need.

I am convinced that a person should put his or her membership in a true and sound church no matter what their attendance can or cannot be. How the example of this dear sister should not put many people to shame. There are folk in and near Winston-Salem who say that they believe just what we stand for at Grace Baptist Church and yet are members of no churches or belong to organizations that are diametrically opposed to what these folk say that they believe. I feel that some want to remain in the big churches, some do not want to bear the reproach, some do not want to be under authority or obligation, and some are not willing to make the sacrifices. God bless you, Sister James. May He be with you greatly and use you to His glory. May your example be used of God to cause others to be obedient to God in the great matter of church membership. God bless you all.

I wrote the above article several months ago, and laid it aside undecided whether to send it in or not. It became misplaced, and recently discovered. I send it along at this late date, hoping it

will be a blessing to those who read it. Several months have passed. Sister James has been a wonderful blessing to our church. Her faithfulness in attending and giving, her radiant Christian experience, her zeal for the things of the Lord have encouraged and challenged us all. Sometimes, when I see her come in, I could almost weep for her and for the sacrifices she must make in being true to what God has taught her, but surely, God will richly reward her for all this. She will not be a loser by her faithfulness to the Lord.

It was our joy and delight that she was able to attend the Conference this year with others from our church. How she thrilled at this wonderful experience and I am sure that she was a blessing to all who met her there. Brother Elvis Gregory was blessed in meeting her as she drove 300 miles to be in one of the services in our recent revival here. One of our members recently remarked how that being around Sister James made her feel so small. Truly, this woman has been a tremendous blessing to Grace Baptist Church and to every member thereof. Pray for Sister James, that God will greatly bless her. That He will feed her soul on those long trips each three weeks or so, to be in our services. That He will use her testimony in her home and town to the glory of God. That God might, if He sees fit, establish some day, a true and sound church closer to her, although we would weep to lose her.

May God use this article to cause others to follow this example and to bless the readers thereof. God bless you all.



Letter To Life

(Continued from page one)

have held many of the opinions of the Anabaptists, have existed from the times of the apostles. In the sense of the direct transmission of Divine truth, and the true nature of spiritual religion, it seems probable that these have a lineage or succession **MORE ANCIENT** than that of the Roman Church."

John Clark Ridpath, doubtless the greatest historian the world has ever produced, (a Methodist by denominational conviction), said: "I should not readily admit that there was a Baptist Church as far back as 100 A. D., although without doubt there were Baptist churches then, as **ALL CHRISTIANS** were then Baptists."

Mosheim, the outstanding Lutheran historian, said: "Before the rise of Luther and Calvin, there lay secreted in almost all the countries of Europe, persons who adhered tenaciously to the principles of the modern Dutch Baptists . . . the origin of Baptists is lost in the remote depths of antiquity . . . the first century was a history of the Baptists."

Zwingli, a Presbyterian collaborator with John Calvin, said: "The institution of the Anabaptists is no novelty, but for 1300 years has caused great trouble in the church."

Even Cardinal Hosius (Catholic), president of the Council of (Continued on page 5, column 1)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

NOVEMBER 21, 1970

PAGE THREE

The Baptist Examiner

FORUM

"Is it right for a Baptist, who is saved and a member of a New Testament Church, to belong to the Masonic Lodge?"



ROY
MASON
RADIO MINISTER
BAPTIST PREACHER
Aripeka, Florida

I must confess that I am a "Mason," but it is not my fault. I was born that way. But while my name is Mason, I do not belong to the Masonic Lodge, nor do I believe that a Christian and church member should belong. The same thing goes for any secret oath bound order. I could give many reasons for saying this, but will only give a few:

1. The Bible prohibits a Christian from yoking up with any organization composed partly of unsaved people. 2 Cor. 6:14 says, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers, for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness..."

2. The Masonic Lodge in their burial service make no difference at all between saved and unsaved. According to their ritual all go to "the great lodge above." Personally, I won't join with an organization in a funeral where I preach one thing and they preach another with their ritual at the grave.

3. Lodges, the one mentioned, and others, take the time and money and service that a Christian ought to bestow on the Lord's work.

4. No reward will be received from God for service rendered in a lodge. Why not work and serve where it will count for something for eternity?

E. G.
Cook

701 Cambridge
Birmingham, Ala.

BIBLE TEACHER

Philadelphia
Baptist Church
Birmingham, Ala.



I will answer this question by telling you why I could never be a Mason. In the first place, the masonic organization is a religion pure and simple. In fact, it is the only religion in the world that can, and does embrace all the other religions. You never see a Methodist joining a Presbyterian Church and still retaining his membership in the Methodist Church. You never see a Baptist maintaining membership in a Baptist Church and at the same time maintaining membership as a Mohammedan. But you do see them all flocking to the masonic lodge and still holding on to their membership in some other religion. I maintain that the Masonic Lodge is a religion because they do use portions of the Scriptures in their rituals. And I saw with my own eyes the Masons as they committed a dead man's spirit to God some seventy two hours after his spirit had already gone to the wherever it was going. No organization other than a religious organization would concern itself with the eternal destiny of a man's spirit even in this unscriptural way.

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
NOVEMBER 21, 1970

PAGE FOUR

Then I could never be a Mason because my Lord could never be one. If the Masonic Lodge were to accept the Lord Jesus Christ into their membership, the Jews, the Mohammedans and half the professing Christians would drop the lodge as if it was a hot potato. Not only would my Lord be unwelcome in person. He is not allowed in their use of the Scriptures. When they use a Scripture like Rom. 5:1 or 16:27 they must stop before they say "through Jesus Christ our Lord" for fear of offending those of other religions. Then they would have to refuse to accept Him into their membership because He refuses to speak anything in secret, Isa. 48:16. So when they leave Jesus Christ out, they have nothing left that I want.

And then I could never be a Mason because I do not have the time. Being a Baptist is a full time job. You can take your Baptist teachings along with you on your secular job. But if you try that with your Masonic teachings you may get your tongue cut out by the roots. So I prefer to be a part of an organization that even urges you to proclaim their teachings everywhere you go. I tried being a Civitan several years ago. I soon found that my duties as a Civitan conflicted with my duties as a Baptist too much. So now I am just a Baptist.

JAMES
HOBBS

Rt. 2, Box 182
McDermott, Ohio

RADIO SPEAKER
and MISSIONARY

Kings Addition
Baptist Church
South Shore, Ky.



Brethren, I realize that while we are living in this world it may become necessary for us to belong to various organizations relating to our secular jobs. I am not going to contend with those who are against such organizations, but I very definitely say that we must not associate ourselves with lodges or organizations outside of those mentioned above. Especially should we not belong to a religious organization other than a Missionary Baptist Church. The Masonic Lodge is an Inter- or Non-Denominational organization. We cannot have anything to do with their organization.

Let me remind you that the Lord Jesus Christ gave us only one organization. He started the church and gave His church the commission to preach, teach, and serve Him. Along with this fact, we also are taught that we must live a separated life. We are now the servants of righteousness. "Being then made free from sin, ye become servants of righteousness." (Romans 6:18). If we are servants of righteousness we cannot belong to an organization of people who disobey God by joining false churches.

There is a very clear passage of Scripture relative to our association with unbelievers or the disobedient. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their

God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." (I Corinthians 6:14-18). This passage shows us that we are not to be a part of the world in any way. Christian men and women have no business marrying a person who is not saved. Christian people have no business associating with those who teach or stand for false doctrines, and churches have no business keeping false teachers within the membership.

The Bible also tells us to purge ourselves from dishonorable Christians. "But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, He shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work." (II Timothy 2:20,21).

If we as God's people spend the time that we should reading His word, praying, witnessing, and serving God through His church, we won't have time to waste in these other organizations.

AUSTIN
FIELDS

PASTOR,

Arabia Baptist
Church

Arabia, Ohio



No, it is not right for a Baptist to be a member of the Masonic Lodge. There are many reasons why a Baptist should not be a member of this lodge, but the primary one is, they are at extremes as to the only begotten Son of God. All true Baptist Churches contend that the only way of approach unto God, is through the precious blood and name of Jesus Christ, whereas the Masons purposely omit the name of Jesus in their rituals, yet lay claim to worship of God.

In defending their (Mason's) position they apologetically say, "It is not wise for us to mention the name Jesus, lest we offend some of our members who do not believe in the Son of God." Thus if a true Baptist were to affiliate himself with this lodge he would of necessity have to compromise the name of Jesus, and to do so he would be guilty of denying the Lord as was the Apostle Peter, for he cannot take Him with him as he endeavors to worship with the Masons. He must leave Him at the door. Our Lord clearly defines for us the things necessary for the worship of God when He said, "God is a Spirit; and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." Jn. 4:24.

Masonic Lodges do not have the Spirit (Comforter) or the truth, for in omitting the name of Jesus Christ, they omit Him who is the truth and the only way to God. Let us listen as the Comforter very emphatically expresses this truth.

"That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son, honoureth not the Father which hath sent Him."—Jn. 5:23.

"Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father; but he that acknowledgeth the Son, hath the Father also." — I Jn. 2:23.

Furthermore God has decreed that there cannot be true worship outside of His church. It is in the church where Jesus meets with His hungry and thirsty children to satisfy their needs. Here again the Masonic Lodge takes to herself authority which God never gave her, for she teaches a better way of life, based upon morals, free will or salvation by

POPERY

A Gigantic Swindle of The Devil

By ROBERT BROWN

Robert Brown (1820-1905) was a solicitor in Hull and leader in an assembly of Christians who believed in the S.G.A.T. teachings and Doctrines of Grace. He was author of many books.

This book was written some 70 years ago, the facts and Scriptural teachings are more relevant than they were then.

The Author sets out to show—

1. The false pretensions and claims of Popery.
2. How they were established.
3. By what means they were consolidated and extended.
4. Why all believers in the Scriptures should oppose this system.

The price of this book is \$1.50.

It is a good book and is a thorough exposure of the papal system. We would urge our readers to buy it for wide distribution. Order from CBC Bookstore.

works. Therefore her doctrine is another method to bring to naught the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the sins of His people.

"Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end, Amen." Eph. 3:19.

From this verse it becomes apparent that the only place of true glory is in the church. Therefore all the work necessary to build up the cause of Christ can be done by and through a New Testament Church. Thus a Baptist who belongs to a Masonic Lodge should not hope to be rewarded for any good works that he might perform on the authority of any other institution outside of a true Baptist Church.

"And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Rev. 22:12.

I have heard some say, "It would be advantageous to any man to belong to the Masons, for all Masons pull together, thus his prestige and acquaintances would be enlarged. These would be of great assistance in acquiring more of this world's goods." I would remind you Baptists who think that you can get along better in this world by joining the Lodge the words of the Spirit, "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" Rom. 8:31.

Nowhere do we read that we are to flash a lodge pin in order to acquire wealth or escape a trying experience; rather we are taught to trust in the Lord, for He is "our refuge and strength a very present help in trouble." Therefore it is my belief that it would be wrong, sinful and disgraceful for a true Baptist to be a member of a Masonic Lodge.

Christ... Cross

(Continued from page one)
Revelation, Chapter 2. You know the Lord Jesus Christ had something against the Ephesian Church and He said, "You have lost your first love" and then commanded that church to repent and do her first works with a threat that if they did not, He would come and remove His candlestick out of its place. He did not say that He would merely remove the candlestick, but that He would remove the candlestick out of its place.

I believe that in God's economy every New Testament Church occupies a unique position and if that church gets out of line or refuses to assume its responsibility, then the Lord will remove that church from its position and put one in, because the ranks will be filled.

I believe also that every child of God occupies a unique position in God's economy and if we

do not assume the responsibility that belongs to each of us, then God will remove us, and put someone in our place that will assume that responsibility. The responsibility that I have particular reference to is the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ on the part of the churches, and the personal witnessing on the part of individual Christians, to every person that we encounter.

I believe that if I know Jesus Christ as my kinsman redeemer, I should delight in telling others the glad story of how Jesus Christ redeems men. This evening let us notice that Jesus Christ and the Cross is the Hope of the World.

In our text, the Apostle Paul declares that Jesus Christ is the power of God. I take the position that Christianity must stand or fall in the Person of Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ is the Person of this hope. He is the hope of the hopeless.

I am going to say a number of things about the person of Jesus Christ. I realize that we need to discuss; we need to preach; we need to exalt; we need to tell the people how that Jesus Christ died for our sins; that He was buried and the third day arose again. But we also need to tell them that in order for Him to die He must also live. I believe, therefore, in the complete and entire substitutionary death but I also believe in the substitutionary life of Jesus Christ as well. I not only believe that Jesus Christ died for my sin but I also believe, and teach, that He lived for me and that the righteousness which He wrought out is the very righteousness that God demands, and that the law demands, but that the law cannot confirm. So when we are saved, we have the assurance of sins forgiven and of having been redeemed. Then, of course, we have the righteousness of God and this is what the law demands. We read:

"That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."—Rom. 8:4.

Jesus Christ, as I have already said, is man's only hope. He is the power of God. I want us to notice His life as well as His death this evening. Both are absolutely necessary. I believe that Jesus Christ had a nature that was divine. That is, He was divine. He was God.

He was "God manifested in the flesh" and this is a tremendous mystery. "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." I Timothy 3:16.

On the other hand, I believe He actually lived in a human body and that He suffered in the flesh (Continued on page 5, column 2)

THE CATTLE UPON A THOUSAND HILLS



"I will take no bullock out of thy house nor he goats out of thy folds. For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills."—Psalm 50:9,10.

Letter To Life

(Continued from page 3)

Trent, December 13, 1545 to December 4, 1563, said: "Were it not for the fact that the Baptists have been grievously tormented and cut off with the knife during the PAST 1200 YEARS, they would swarm greater than all the reformers . . . If the truth of religion were to be judged by the readiness and boldness of which a man or any sect shows in suffering, then the opinions and persuasions of no sect can be truer and surer than those of the Anabaptists, since there have been none for the 1200 YEARS PAST that have been more generally punished or that have been more cheerfully and steadfastly undergone, and have offered themselves to the most cruel sort of punishment than these people."

"Crossing the Centuries," edited by William C. King, having as associate counselors, editors, collaborators and contributors such as: Cardinal Gibbons, Roman Catholic; Bishop John H. Vincent, Methodist; President Theodore Roosevelt; President Woodrow Wilson; W. H. P. Founce (President of Brown University); Albert Bushnell Hart, Ph.D., L.L.D., Litt.D., head of the History Department of Harvard University; George B. Adams, M.A., Ph.D., Litt.D., of Yale, and many more such famous men, says: "Of the Baptists it may be said that they are not reformers. These people, comprising bodies of Christian believers known under various names in different countries, are entirely distinct and independent of the Roman and Greek churches, and have an UNBROKEN CONTINUITY OF EXISTENCE FROM APOSTOLIC DAYS DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES. Throughout this long period, they were bitterly persecuted for heresy, driven from country to country, disfranchised, deprived of their property, imprisoned, tortured and slain by the thousands; yet they swerved not from their New Testament faith, doctrine and adherence."

My dear sir, while I quoted from several of the world's greatest historians, I could quote from dozens of others if space permitted. None of these quoted were Baptist, yet all of them agree that Baptists have existed since the days of the apostles, and that the path traveled by Baptists through the ages has been one of martyrdom and suffering. Surely Baptists can say with the poet:

"Through many dangers, toils and snares
We have already come;

'Tis grace hath brought us safe thus far,
And grace will lead us home."

Please do not misunderstand me, sir, I do not mean to say that none but Baptists are saved. Really many so-called Baptists are unsaved. Church membership will save no one. Instead, all who have trusted Jesus Christ as Saviour and have been washed in His blood (Revelation 1:5) are sure of Heaven. This is so, regardless of church membership and baptism. In fact, if he has neither church membership nor baptism, yet in his heart has received Christ as his Saviour, that one will go to Heaven when he dies, for he has nothing to go to Hell for, since Christ has already suffered his Hell on Calvary.

Though we thus believe as to salvation, we also insist that the church that Jesus built was a Baptist Church.

With every good wish to you in the New Year, and praying that God shall open your eyes to the truth of church history, I am,

Yours most sincerely,

JOHN R. GILPIN, Editor
The Baptist Examiner,
Ashland, Kentucky

Christ . . . Cross

(Continued from page 4)

and that He was tempted as a man—that He was not tempted according to Matthew 4 and Luke 4 as God, but that He was tempted as a man. In James 1:13 we are told that "God cannot be tempted, neither tempteth He any man."

Therefore, Jesus was tempted as a man. Jesus Christ was so human that He could go to Canaan and Galilee and enjoy the wedding festivities that were taking place but at the same time He was so divine that when the wine was exhausted, He turned the water into wine. See John 2.

I believe with all of my heart that the water was not just discolored, but that the water actually became wine, and that it was intoxicating wine. If you study that passage closely enough you will note that the governor was complimented by the guests on the fact that he had saved the best for the last. Now the reason for that custom, was that in the beginning you were supposed to take the best wine and become slightly intoxicated and the governor of the feast could pawn off on them the bad wine and they

wouldn't know the difference. Therefore, they complimented him and said you have saved the best for the last.

I want you to notice another thing. Jesus was so human that He grew weary at sea. According to Mark, He grew so weary that He went down into the hinder part of the ship, and went to sleep. His body was tired. He was exhausted and thus He went to sleep. His divinity was seen when the storm began to rage and the waves began to mount higher and higher until they got into the ship. It is a fearful thing for a ship as small as that one was, to be in the sea. It says that one of the disciples went down and awoke the Master and asked Him the question "Carest thou not that we perish?" Mark 4:38.

Jesus, of course, reprimanded them for their lack of faith and stood on deck and lifted the hands that were soon to be nailed to Calvary's cross and spoke peace to the raging storm. The waves quickly and immediately subsided and became still. I say therefore this evening that He can still the raging storm at sea. He can still the raging storm in the hearts of lost and alien sinners. He can calm the fevered brow. He can speak peace to the troubled mind and to the troubled heart. Every person that has been saved, first became rather disturbed and often times emotionally upset. The Word of God is preached and suddenly they come to see themselves as being helpless, hopeless, lost and on the road to Hell. A storm begins to rage in their hearts. This storm engulfs their entire being until after awhile, perhaps days, I've seen men when they have been forced to cry out, "What in the world can I do?"

I have always tried to be honest with people and tell them the absolute truth. I have taken the Word of God and read John 6 to them. I have suddenly seen the storm that was reflected in their faces (because faces are the mirrors of human hearts) become calm and the turmoil all vanish, and they suddenly became still and quiet because Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God, had spoken peace to their troubled souls and had given them the assurance that they belonged to Him.

Jesus was so human He sat down on Jacob's well. He was weary from His long day's journey—traveling the dusty roads of Judea; climbing the mountain sides and leaving His footprints upon the sands of time. This man was God manifested in the flesh, and yet being so human He sat down and was resting on the

raise.

curb

divine

came from

er from this we

thirst He gave unto

of life. She became so

and overjoyed at having

face to face with a sovereign God

that she forgot her errand and

left her water pot and went back

into the city and said:

"Come, see a man, which told

me all things that ever I did: is

not this the Christ?"—John 4:29.

Jesus Christ revealed to this

poor lost and alienated sinner

something that He had never re-

vealed to another human being

and He did this when she said to

Him:

"I know that Messias cometh,

which is called Christ: when He

is come, He will tell us all things.

Jesus saith unto her, I that

speak unto thee am He."—John

4:25,26.

He did not tell it to the priest,

to the kings or nobles but He re-

vealed His Messiahship to this

lonely and lowly woman of Sa-

maria.

I say again that Jesus Christ

is man's only hope and this poor

woman came to this well to get

the water that quenches man's

natural thirst, but Jesus Christ

revealed who He was, and who

He is. He gave her the water of

life and she went on her way re-

joicing.

Jesus Christ was so human that

He stood in the garden where

Lazarus' body reposed and the

saddest verse in the Bible is

where we are told that He wept.

When God's people have been

beaten down into the dust of the

earth, and despondency has grab-

bed hold of their hearts, and they

have been made to cry out in

their hopelessness, and in their

despair because a loved one has

passed away, Jesus Christ whisp-

ers peace to them and calms

them. God speaks to the hearts of

His people when they are in deep

sorrow. You notice that Martha

and Mary, the sisters of Lazarus,

were weeping and the neighbors

and friends were weeping and it

says in verse 35 "Jesus wept."

This one little verse containing

only two words has resounded

around this earth and has been

a comfort in the storms of life.

It has calmed the raging storms

that often times breaks our hearts

and our souls.

Every tear that has fallen from

an eye of a child of God, Jesus

Christ has seen. Jesus has looked

down from His heavenly home

and looked upon everyone of

those tears. Jesus sees us in our

worst moments and in our best

moments because Jesus Christ is

our constant companion. He is

our sufferer. He is our divine

helper. Jesus Christ is our bless-

ed kinsmen redeemer and under-

stands all of our sorrows and all

of our troubles.

Let me tell you this evening,

here stands a preacher that speaks

out of bitter experience. I have

been beaten down time after

time. Sometimes young preach-

ers don't think of the preachers

who have been preaching for 30

or 40 years as ever having trouble

and sorrow. Brother, I've had it,

I know what it means to suffer.

I know what it means to be beat-

en down until I reach up with

hands that seemingly cling to the

very garments of the divine Son

of God, and beg for mercy, and

for divine assistance, and never

let go like Jacob of old, until God

blesses me.

And so there in the silent city

of the dead the tears of Jesus

trickle down His face and sparkle

like diamonds in the sun, and

they fell upon the ground in that

sacred place, and forever hallow-

ed and sanctified the place

where they fell, for here were

the tears of the Redeemer. He

was so divine, bless God, that

He stood there and said, "Lazar-

us, come forth." And Lazarus

arose from the dead and walked

out of that grave and Jesus said,

"Loose him and let him go." You

can readily see that Jesus Christ

is the power of God.

You know Jesus was so human

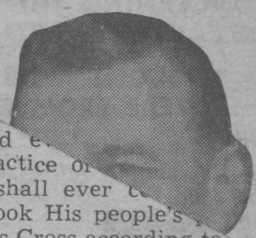
on Calvary's cross. He was then

drinking the last bitter dregs of

the wrath of Almighty God, and

I'll tell you every sin, of every

Eld. Fred T. Halliman
Missionary To
New Guinea



He cried out with a loud cry, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Jesus Christ was tasting death for His people. He was bearing His people's sins. The earth had been cloaked in darkness. The sun had gone down at the noon hour and the quietness could almost be heard, but there came that one cry from Calvary's Cross, "My God."

It is heart rending when you think how the Creator of this universe according to Col. 1:15 made the world for Himself, and nothing consists without Him, and yet He died like a common criminal upon the cross. He cried, "My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" He was so divine in the blackness of that hour when that old thief who had experienced the repentance that God gave, said, "Lord remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." Luke 23:42 and Jesus said, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."

Jesus was so human that He cried out upon the cross, "I thirst" and they gave Him vinegar mixed with gall to drink and He refused to drink it. He was so divine that He dismissed His own spirit. In Luke 23:46 He said, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit."

Fellowship had been temporarily severed. It had been interrupted but was now restored because Jesus Christ had paid the debt. He met the fierce demands of the law. He paid the debt for every one of His people. He had paid for their sins and so now fellowship is restored. "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." Thus the ground of our hope is in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Without Calvary we would have no hope. The Apostle Paul said in Ephesians 2:12 and 13 that without Christ men have no hope. I tell you the masses of this earth have no hope. Even the elect of God that does not have the assurance of salvation within himself, has no hope because you cannot know that you are an elect of God until you believe. Election is unto faith according to II Thess. 2:13. Election is unto obedience. I Peter 1:2. Election is unto holiness. Ephesians 1:4. No man has a right to say that he is an elect of God who lives in open rebellion against Him. I say to you, no man has any hope until he knows Jesus Christ as his personal Kinsman and Redeemer or until the Son of God has been crowned in his heart as the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Without Calvary justice could never have been satisfied. Jesus died in satisfying the justice of God. You and I could go to Hell and live throughout the endless ages of a never-ending eternity, but we could never satisfy justice. Jesus satisfied the justice of God, meeting the fierce demands of the law of God, and satisfied it all, and in doing so, satisfied Himself.

In Isaiah 53:11, you will notice: "When He shall see of the travail of His soul, He shall be satisfied." Notice this. I tell you the sword of divine justice was sheathed when Jesus Christ died upon Calvary's Cross but it was all gory and red with the blood of the Son of God as it pierced His side. God said, "I am satisfied," and Jesus said, "I am satisfied." And you and I when we stand in His presence will also say, "We are satisfied."

Without Calvary, there could

(Continued on page 6, column 5)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

NOVEMBER 21, 1970

PAGE FIVE

Secret Societies

(Continued from page one)

swear that I will keep the secrets of a companion . . . sacred and inviolable." Here no crime is excepted. This is simply wicked beyond expression. In other degrees the candidate is compelled to take an obligation that he will not harm the relatives or women members of the families of the lodge. This is a selfish obligation. Compare it with the obligation of the church of Christ. Compare it with the attitude which is continually presented to us in the Word of God, not merely to refrain from giving offense to those whom it is decidedly to our advantage to protect, but to love our enemies and to do good to them that hate us and persecute us, and pray for them that despitefully use us.

The Lodge Is Anti-Christian

Again, in conduct and propaganda the lodge is ANTI-CHRISTIAN. Now, I realize that there are many lodge members, and many who are not members, who say that this is not true, "for," say they, "is not one of the requisites for membership in these lodges a belief in God? Do they not require the candidate to express his belief in God?" The answer is that many of them do, and the committee which is appointed to call upon the candidate to examine him as to his fitness for membership asks the question, "Do you believe in God?" But what God do they mean? Do they mean the God of the Bible or some other god?

This is a most important consideration, and one which I should like to emphasize at this point. To the man or woman who has not been Scripturally taught, the name of God used in connection with a movement or a so-called religion is apparently all that is necessary, in many cases, to stamp that movement or that religious belief as a good one. But a study of the Word of God reveals to us that merely the use of the name "God" is not all that is necessary. For example, there is the God of the Pantheists, who say that God is found in the universe as a whole and that there is no God other than the combined forces and laws manifested in the existing universe. This, you see, is a conception of God quite different from that which the Scripture portrays, for Scripture sets forth a God who is a Person; that is, who has the attributes of personality, who thinks, who hears, who feels, who sees, who loves, who speaks.

Then there is the God of the Mohammedan — Allah — a God whose only prophet was Mohammed. This is not at all the Scriptural conception of God. There is the God of the Buddhist, the God of the Theosophist, the God of the Confucianist, the God of all of the false religions which is not the God of the Bible.

The God of the Bible is the God who is revealed in saving power alone in the Lord Jesus Christ, who came to earth in the flesh, taking upon Himself the form of the servant and becoming obedient unto death, even the death of the cross, where He shed His precious blood, bearing in His own body our sins, becoming our substitute, dying in our place, that He might bring us to God, that He might reconcile us to God. It is not sufficient, therefore, to say that we believe in God, or in a God, but the question is, what is our conception of God? We must believe in God as revealed in the Scripture, in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. We must believe in the Tri-une God — God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, yet one Godhead. Three persons, yet one. We must believe in not merely a God who creates but the Lord Jehovah who redeems.

When we investigate the ritual and tenets of the secret orders, we find that the name of God is

profusely used and in some of the degrees, even the name of Christ that it renders the whole conception of both God and of Christ, but we find such a wrong procedure akin to blasphemy.

Masonry's Use of the Scriptures

Let me give you an example. In probably the best known of the secret orders extant today, I refer to Masonry, the name of Christ is deliberately stricken out from the Scripture passages used in the rituals, where the name of Christ occurs in the Bible in those passages. This is also true of most other lodges. In the charge to be read at the opening of one of the degrees the following Scripture passage is given, "If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious, to whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up sacrifices, acceptable to God. Wherefore also it is contained in the Scriptures, etc." This is a quotation of I Peter 2:3-6, but please notice that the words "by Jesus Christ" which occur in the Bible are omitted in the lodge ritual. It is not a misprint; this passage is printed in this mutilated form in other rituals and not only that, but we are assured in a note on one of the passages that it is printed in this form purposely, for it says, "The passages are taken with slight modification, from the second chapter of the First Epistle of Peter."

Is it a "slight modification" to take out the name of our Lord Jesus Christ from Scripture passages where it occurs? The name of Jesus Christ is deleted. We immediately see the terrible omission when we realize that the name of the Lord Jesus Christ is the only name in which is salvation.

Another example is found in one of the other degrees, where II Thessalonians 3:6 is quoted, "Now we command you, brethren, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly and not after the tradition which he received of us." The words "in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" are omitted in the ritual. It originally reads, "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves" etc. And then the use of II Thessalonians 3:12, "Now them that are such we command and exhort that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread." Here again the words "by our Lord Jesus Christ" are omitted in the ritual.

The lodges, therefore, only recognize a Supreme Being in the universe. The Mohammedan, the Jew, the Christian are all on equal footing in the lodge, and if the Mohammedan, the Jew and the Christian are worshipping in a manner true to their faith this is an absolutely impossible situation.

The Lodge and the Bible

The question is often asked, in defense of the lodge, "Do they not use the Bible? Do they not quote from the Bible regularly, and is not the work of the lodge founded upon the Bible? It is only necessary to reply that the Unitarian uses the Bible, but he denies the Lord Jesus as Saviour. The follower of Eddyism uses the Bible, but it is so completely distorted and so impossibly interpreted as to render it absolutely null and void so far as its power is concerned. Satan, when he tempted the Lord Jesus, quoted Scripture, but he used it in an erroneous way. It is not enough to quote Scripture and it is not enough to take portions of Scripture entirely out of their context, and so distort them and so apply them as to prove a false belief or establish an unscriptural teaching. If we take one portion of Scripture here and one portion there, taking them entirely out of their setting historically and prophetically, combining them (as we see fit, that is handling the Word of God deceitfully (II Cor. 2:17; 14:2). We must read Scripture and understand it in



AND CONCERNING
THE TITHE OF THE HERD,
OR THE FLOCK,
EVEN OF WHATSOEVER
PASS UNDER THE ROD,
THE TENTH
SHALL BE HOLY UNTO
THE LORD

LEV. 27:32.

the light of God's revealed plan. Failure to do this only leads to all kinds of error.

The whole structure of lodge procedure is built upon the erroneous teaching of the "universal fatherhood of God" and the "universal brotherhood of man" (Jno. 8:44); and the necessity for salvation alone by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8,9) is entirely ignored. It is true that there are many Christians in the lodges, but they do not belong there. They are disregarding the Scriptural injunction "be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers" (II Corinthians 6:14-18). Some claim that these secret orders are not religious but the fact nevertheless remains that most of them are so regarded, and were so regarded by the founders of the orders and by those who have authority in them.

One cannot believe in the religion of these secret orders and at the same time be a true believer in the Christian faith. They are absolutely opposite. For example, I cannot believe John 1:12, "To as many as received him, to them gave he the power (or the authority) to become the sons of God, even to those that believe on his name," and still believe in the universal fatherhood of God and the universal brotherhood of man, which teaches that God is the Father of every man. There are two opposite beliefs. I cannot believe that I am saved only by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and still believe in the religion of the lodge which teaches that we are saved by character and good works.

In some of the higher degrees of Masonry the name of Jesus Christ is used, but investigation will reveal the fact that salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ is not taught, in the Scriptural method, but rather salvation by an entirely different method. If these degrees are studied in the light of Scripture, it will be found that the use of the name of Jesus Christ is very subtly introduced but not to teach salvation by grace through faith in His shed blood.

We cannot obey the commands of the Lord Jesus Christ and belong to these secret orders. In Matthew 5:14-16 we read, "ye are the light of the world; let your light so shine before men that others may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Organized secrecy does not even permit its members to pass on to the world these things which they receive. They are put under the most horrible oaths ever to conceal and never to reveal them. If they have the truth, it should be given to as many as possible and not be concealed from those outside the lodge.

Listen to another command of the Lord Jesus in respect to oaths

given outside the jurisdiction of a court: Matthew 5:34-37, "But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; neither by the earth, for it is his footstool; neither by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black, but let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, Nay; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of the evil one."

The Religion of the Lodge is Unitarian

There are many more things which might be said concerning this question, but in conclusion, I should like to make a few brief quotations from a pamphlet, written by Elijah Alfred Coyle, a Unitarian minister and at one time also Worshipful Master of the Masonic lodge in Marietta, Ohio and called "The Relation of the Liberal Churches and the Fraternal Orders." This pamphlet is published for free distribution by the American Unitarian Association, in Boston, Mass.

It might be well to state that the Unitarian belief is that which denies the doctrine of the Trinity—they believe that God exists only in one person. This Unitarian belief, of course, denies the Saviorhood of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the doctrine of the Holy Spirit in its Trinitarian aspect.

This Unitarian writer says, after giving a short sketch of the origin of the Unitarian movement in this country:

"It is becoming more and more clear to me as the facts relating to the subject are brought out, that the fraternities (and undoubtedly he means the fraternal orders and lodges) and churches called 'Liberal' have been working along parallel lines; but, because the one puts the chief emphasis upon the fatherhood of God and therefore emphasizes theology, while the other puts the chief emphasis (Continued on page 7, column 1)

Christ . . . Cross

(Continued from page five)

not have been an empty tomb. Without an empty tomb man is without hope. The Apostle Paul said in I Cor. 15:17, "If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain." And in the next verse He said, "Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished."

Then in the next verse He said, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." I Cor. 15:19. But then in verse 20, He raises to the heights and says, "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept."

There came a time when the women went to visit the tomb and there the angel sat and said, "I know whom ye seek. Ye seek

Jesus of Nazareth. He is not here. He is risen as He said." And Jesus burst asunder the powers of death, arose triumphant and victorious over Hell and the grave and said, "I have in my hands the keys of death, the keys of the grave, and the keys of Hell, I am alive forever more." He lives today. I know that He lives because He lives within my heart. Without Calvary there could not have been an empty tomb.

In Romans 1:4 He was "Declared to be the Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."

He conquered death. He overcame death. He made a laughing stock of Hell. He conquered death and arose from the dead. I tell you, I have a hope in the resurrection. When they take this old carcass of mine out to the silent city of the dead I don't want the preacher to stand there and try to eulogize. I want him to say that here is a man that died because of sin. Sin is a thing that brought both physical and spiritual death into this world, but I also want that man to tell the people there is going to come a day when the divine Son of God is going to call for Wayne Cox and I am going to rise from the grave. I am going to look back to that yawning chasm that once contained all that was mortal of me and I am going to shout the glad some song, "Oh, grave, where is thy victory? Oh death, where is thy sting?" I am going to rise to meet the Lord in the air. I Thess. 4:13-17.

Jesus Christ is going to reign on this earth one of these days until the last enemy has been destroyed. The whole earth has been redeemed by Jesus Christ. He bought this earth and paid for it. He is going to come one day to claim it. He is going to claim it and He is going to purge it. He is going to purify it and He is going to reign until the last enemy has been destroyed. You know death is an enemy. I hate death. Death is a terrible thing. Death is an awful thing and leaves a vacuum in the heart of those who have lost loved ones. But Jesus is going to reign until the last enemy is destroyed. I Cor. 15:26 says, "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."

He is going to banish every foe. He is going to destroy every enemy. He is going to hand back this old earth to God as perfect, actually, or more perfect, having reclaimed more than Adam ever lost. You and I are going to stand before Him. We are going to take what few crowns or rewards that we may have and gently lay them at the feet of Jesus Christ and we're going to sing the glad some song, "To God Be The Glory."

Are you saved tonight? Do you know Jesus Christ? Is He your hope? Do you know Him? Really know Him? I believe that every soul that is saved knows Jesus. Do you know Him?

Eld. Wm. C. Burket Missionary To Navajo Indians



WM. C. BURKET

Send your offerings for the support of Brother William C. Burket to:

Navajo Missions
c/o Calvary Baptist Church
P.O. Box 910
Ashland, Kentucky 41101

Be sure to state that the offering is for the mission work of the Navajo Indians. Do not say that it is for missions as this will only be confusing since we have other mission works.

Write Brother Burket frequently. His address is:

Elder William C. Burket
208 E. Tycksen Street
Farmington, N. M. 87401

Secret Societies

(Continued from page 6)

upon the brotherhood of man, and therefore emphasizes sociology, they have not realized that they were occupying practically the same ground. (Please notice that statement especially, to the effect that the Liberal churches and the fraternal orders, because of the similarity of their purposes and standards, have been occupying practically the same ground). They have not therefore always supplemented each other's work as they should do. Evidences of a better understanding are now appearing and there is promise that real cooperation will ensue. I have often thought in recent years that I should like to organize a Sunday School class and use a textbook the Monitors of our leading fraternal orders and show the members of those organizations the logic of the principles to which they in their lodges are pledged. Nearly all of those Monitors have, as their very heart, the 'fatherhood of God,' the 'brotherhood of man,' immortality, and salvation by character (Please note that), principles very familiar to every Unitarian Sunday School scholar who has been properly taught in the fundamentals of our faith. There are lodge men who, in the churches, subscribe to the doctrine that 'we are accounted righteous before God only for the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, by faith, and not for our own works or deserving' and enthusiastically join in the singing of hymns in which that idea is embodied. Then in their lodge meetings they just as enthusiastically assent to the following declaration: 'although our thought, word, and action may be hidden from the eyes of men, yet that All-Seeing eye, whom the sun, moon and stars obey, and under whose watchful care even comets perform their stupendous revolution, pervades the inmost recesses of the human heart and will reward us according to our merit.' A little child, once his attention is called to the matter, ought to be able to see that it is impossible to harmonize the creed statement here quoted, with the declaration taken from the Monitor of one of the greatest and most effective secret orders, and found in substance in the liturgies of nearly all the others. If we are accounted righteous before God only for

the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by faith, and for our own works or deservings, then it cannot possibly be true that the All-Seeing eye pervades the inmost recesses of the human heart and will reward us according to our merit. One of these declarations excludes the other."

And so we find another confirmation of the fact that the religion of the lodge is Unitarian, and while the name of God is used it is not the God of the Bible — the God revealed as the Father, the Son — the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

As chaplain in the Masonic lodge, I offered the prayers of the lodge and heard many others offered, but never once in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. His name is excluded. Certainly it must be very plain that a true believer in Jesus Christ can have no fellowship in that kind of organization.

The Christian an Example to the World

I am aware of the fact that there are many ministers, and leading Christian laymen who are members of these lodges, but that fact only proves more conclusively the danger of this kind of thing and the subtlety with which it operates. Satan clothes himself as an angel of light and many times deceives Christian people. He seems to delight in entangling believers in these compromising situations so that their testimony is dulled or completely nullified.

Oh, that these Christian leaders, who are involved in these unchristian affiliations, might come to realize the tremendous responsibility resting upon them in furnishing the incentive and setting the example by their association in these orders, to so many people, who, looking to them for leadership, are taken into the lodges, thinking that it must be all right because these Christian men and women are in them.

I plead with Christian men and women who may read this, who are members of lodges, to come out from among them. The need today is for separated Christians, Christians who will not compromise, Christians who are willing to be called narrow and bigoted for the sake of the Lord Jesus; Christians who are willing to suffer persecution if need be, rather than jeopardize their testimony. We have the Lord Jesus Christ. What need we more for this world or for eternity? We have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us as believers and we do not need these worldly institutions for our profit or for our advancement. "What concord hath Christ with Belial, or what fellowship hath he that believeth with an unbeliever?"

As a Christian, what answer will you give to the question which the Lord Jesus one day must ask you: "How could you as a follower of me, swear in an oath to maintain allegiance to an organization and a system which rejected me, your Saviour and Lord?" We cannot serve God and Mammon, either we will be absolutely true to the Lord Jesus, or we will forsake our allegiance for something which compromises or rejects Him.

May God grant that many, reading these lines, may heed the warning against this false system of religion, this snare and counterfeit of Satan.



Human Ego

(Continued from page one)

tism. Paul saw the situation and he said with reference to a whole group of people, "Every man seeketh his own, and not the things of Jesus Christ." (Phil. 2:21).

Old human ego—SELF—played a big part with the disciples of Jesus. At the last supper a quarrel broke out among them as to who was the greatest. "I think I am the greatest," I think I am the greatest. "I think I am the big one of the bunch" — that was the attitude.

What About Old Ego Today?

It is very pronounced. We see it in the Ministry, and often

HERE IS A DEATH THAT IS . . .

PRECIOUS TO THE LORD

T. L. GRIFFIN
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." — Psalm 116:15.

Much of the 116th Psalm is praise and gratitude to God for His glorious blessings to His people, but the text which we have chosen is looking directly from God's side concerning one of His own, as he passes into the Lord's presence from out of the vale of the flesh.

Note the words — IN THE SIGHT OF. In the text we notice that a dying saint is an object of special notice unto the Lord. In fact, this passage is one of

preachers do not recognize that self is put first. Why do preachers become stooges of their denomination? Why do they put up with things that they know are not right? Why do they go ahead helping to support institutions that are filled with modernism and infidelity? The answer is simple. They know that if they don't cry loyalty to the denomination and to all that is fostered by it, they will be branded as disloyal and will be hindered from rising in the ministry. They won't get the prestige of places on "boards" and "committees," etc. Also they will be hindered from obtaining good pastorates. The interest of self — place — power — honor — prestige — these are at stake, and rather than risk the interests of self, the Lord's interests are betrayed. Denominations have gone infidel because of enough of that sort of thing. Baptists are becoming a servile people, dominated by the denomination, because of that very thing.

Ego The Big Thing In Churches

Many church members don't realize how big a place their selfish old ego plays. Everything is okey dokey until something comes up in which they are led to feel slighted, then they suddenly go sour and they are ready to cause a church fuss or else they will pull out and move their membership. Over what? Hurt ego. "My feelings have been hurt!" So what? We have seen people go and join a church that practiced things they didn't believe — that was run unscripturally. We have seen people leave a church in which they believed. Why? Just because their feelings had been wounded about something or other. In other words, they subordinated the truth and the right for the sake of a ruffled and bruised ego.

We have seen church members go along for several years backing the preaching that hit other people and saying "Amen." Then one day the preacher happened to step on their pet sin or failing, and oh boy! They couldn't take it. "The very idea of talking about something that I am guilty of!" "Why that singles ME out for rebuke!"

We have seen people serve in office, then suddenly they up and resigned. It had come to them that somebody had criticized them about something or other and they couldn't bear the thought. Of course Jesus was crucified and many of the followers of Christ have been martyred, but oh horrors of horrors, how awful that somebody should criticize ME! "Let Jesus bear the cross alone — a pin prick of criticism has nearly killed me!"

The egotists who in reality serve self under the guise of Christians are disgusting. All of us are disgusting when we will down before anything that hurts our human pride. It shows that SELF is the big thing — not Christ and His cause and the souls of men and women. Ego — self — human pride — feelings are back behind most church troubles. What is needed is a backyard crucifixion of SELF, such that we can take some criticisms, reproaches, and even kicks and cuffs for the sake of the Lord whom we love.

many comforting and blessed passages of Holy Scripture concerning that event we know as death.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble." — Psalm 46:1.

"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee." — Isaiah 43:2.

What is it that makes the death of God's saints to be precious in His sight?

I
Their very persons is precious to Him, so certainly their death. They in the very first place were precious as they stood in God's sight in the covenant of grace, to be represented in their surety. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began. Read II Timothy 1:9, 10.

"The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love, therefore, with loving kindness have I drawn thee." — Jer. 31:3.

"Unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood." — Rev. 1:5.

"Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end." — John 13:1.

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love with which he loved us." — Eph. 2:4.

"Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ (by grace are ye saved)." — Eph. 2:5.

It is a glorious truth that God's saints were so precious to him that He gave His Son to ransom them. Therefore, they do not even belong to themselves, for they are bought with a price. (I Corinthians 6:19, 20). They are so precious to Him that nothing can separate them from the love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:35, 39).

II
The death of a saint is precious to the Lord, because death is the termination of the saint's sorrow and suffering. It is true that many times saints suffer in the sojourn of the flesh. Here at this point is a good place to use the inspired words of the great Apostle Paul:

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." — Rom. 8:18.

While I do not believe that the saint at death enters into all that Heaven will hold for him, it is indeed a glorious truth that this event does terminate the saint's sufferings because he goes to be with the Lord. Read II Corinthians 5:8.

His already perfected spirit is immediately released from the earthly house. Read II Corinthians 5:1.

The saint goes into a state of blessed consciousness never to be separated from the presence of the Lord, yet awaiting the resurrection which will produce his perfect glorified body fashioned like unto Christ's glorious body. Read Philippians 3:20, 21.

III

A saint's death is precious in God's sight, even in this experience of passing into the unseen so far as the natural side is concerned. The Lord further displays His sufficiency. In fact, in the sufficiency of God's grace, there is a three fold sufficiency: First, saving grace. Second, living grace. Third, grace for our dying hour. Oh, how helpless and needy is even a saint in the hour of death, but even in this hour, God's Word speaks to His saint.

In Isaiah 41:10 we read:

"Fear not, for I am with thee, Be thou not dismayed, for I am thy God, I will strengthen thee, yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Eld. Fred T. Halliman Missionary To New Guinea



FRED T. HALLIMAN

Send your offerings for the support of Brother Fred T. Halliman to:

New Guinea Missions
c/o Calvary Baptist Church
P.O. Box 910
Ashland, Kentucky 41101

Be sure to state that the offering is for the mission work of New Guinea. Do not say that it is for missions as this will only be confusing since we have other mission works.

Write Brother Halliman frequently. His address is:

Elder Fred T. Halliman
Sovereign Grace Baptist Mission
Koroba Free Bag, via Mendi
Territory, Papua, New Guinea

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." — Ps. 23:4.

In the light of these promises of God to His saints, we should never think of a saint's death as hideous or horrible but as precious in God's very sight.

"The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law." — I Cor. 15:56.

Yes, there is still sin in the flesh of a saint of God, and God may in His own wise purpose permit many a saint to suffer even for extended periods of time. Certainly, the sting of death is to be dreaded, but look on verse 57. Here we are told:

"But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." — I Cor. 15:57.

In fact, the 15th chapter of I Corinthians is one of the great chapters of the Bible. As the Apostle Paul is moved upon by the Holy Spirit in this portion of Divine revelation, this chapter presents to us the Gospel in verses one through four. Here we find that Christ died for our sins, that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. In Romans 4:25, we are also told that "Christ was delivered for our offenses, but was raised again for our justification." The death of Christ is so important as to salvation that it cannot be over emphasized, but the resurrection of Christ is the foundation upon which Christianity is built. This is noted in I Cor. 15:12-2. Let's take note carefully here of verse 19 which says:

"If in this life only we have hope in Christ we are of all men most miserable."

Christ also said in John 12:24 "Verily, verily I say unto you Except a corn of wheat fall in the ground and die it abideth alone, but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."

Here Christ is emphasizing the necessity of His death. Certainly He was already in possession of power to exercise mastery over death as He had proven in the recorded cases. First, the raising of Jarius' daughter (Matt. 9:1-26). Second, the widow's son (Lk. 7:11-17).

(Continued on page 8, column 1)

My Impressions...

CONCERNING THE LABOR DAY WEEK-END CONFERENCE
AT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF ASHLAND, KENTUCKY

THOUGHT MESSAGES WERE FROM GOD

The messages were from God — the singing was heavenly — the food fit for a king. May the God of all grace enable Calvary Baptist Church to continue this Conference "til He comes."

Eld. and Mrs. Milburn Cockrell,
Dorsey, Mississippi.

HEART BLESSED BY CONFERENCE

Once again our hearts have been blessed to be here at the Conference. Many of the messages have been wonderful, but especially the one on justification by Bro. Wayne Cox. Thanks again for making this possible.

Eloise Howard,
Strongsville, Ohio

BROUGHT CLOSER TO THE THRONE OF GOD

My impressions are that the Conference brings the Christian closer to the throne of God than any other thing on this earth. I believe this because the Wonderful, All-powerful, All-sovereign God has been exalted and the Saviour of my soul glorified. It

has rejoiced my heart to hear of the most precious subjects my ears have ever heard; and the sweetness and purity of His Word. My cup is truly full and running over with blessings.

Katny Jackson,
Lexington, Ky.

FIRST TIME, BUT EXPECTS TO COME BACK

This is my first visit to the Conference and I just thank the Lord for giving me a chance to hear these great speakers speak the true Word of God. I hope to be able to come back, the Lord willing.

Geraldine McClain,
Beaverton, Michigan

MESSAGES CAME FROM SPEAKER'S HEARTS

I do feel this Conference has been one wherein the messages preached have truly been that which came from the heart of each speaker. There was not an over-lapping, which I feel has been true in the past. I really have been encouraged through this Conference. All who attended this Conference must have been blessed of the Lord. Surely

Calvary Baptist Church has made us welcome and the food was the best quality. The place we stayed could not have been better. How good to be here and meet the many friends and fellowship again around the blessed finished work of our Lord and Master!

Gene Hensley,
Kansas

ENJOYED THESE CONFERENCES

I have enjoyed this years' Bible Conference. It has been a blessing to be here. I hope we can come next year. This has been the third Conference I've attended and I have enjoyed them all.

Mary Toll
Riverdale, Maryland

SOUL REFRESHED AND REVIVED

I thank God for this Conference and the great refreshing and revival that came into my soul. Many of the messages made me to rejoice in my Sovereign Saviour's love and mercy toward me. Thank you Bro. Gilpin and Calvary Baptist Church for this great Conference that my family and I were able to attend. By God's grace and mercy we hope to be able to come again next year. May God richly bless you.

Mrs. James Schafer,
Houston, Texas

THINKS CONFERENCE AN IDEAL PLACE

This is the ideal place to go to get the ample amount of food, both physical and especially spiritual. I thank God for the local, New Testament, Independent Baptist Church — Calvary Baptist Church — as well as the pastor and not forgetting the Baptist Examiner. It is certainly beautiful to have fellowship with the brethren of like faith and practice.

Eld. E. W. (Bill) Hall,
Orlando, Florida

WANTS CONFERENCE TO CONTINUE

I thank the Lord from whom all blessings flow. I enjoyed all the good things He had in store for us. This 1970 Conference especially supplied spiritual food. May the Lord look deep into our hearts, and we like Peter will surely go out and weep bitter tears over our sins. I trust that the Lord will permit the conferences to continue till Jesus comes.

Jim & Wanda Fredericks
Texarkana, Texas

SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS BEYOND EXPECTATION

This Christian fellowship around Christ and His Word is beyond words of expression. How wonderful it is to be able to forget the cares of the world for a few days and think wholly about my Lord and His goodness to us. The food and accommodations are perfect for our needs of the flesh, and God's spiritual blessings beyond our expectation in this Bible Conference. Praise God to be... "accepted in the Beloved."

Ruth P. Hall
Orlando, Florida

EVEN A TEXAN SAYS WORDS FAIL TO DESCRIBE CONFERENCE

The Calvary Baptist Church Bible Conference was without doubt the greatest meeting of this type that I have ever attended. The hospitality was superb. Some of the most cordial people to be found are at Calvary. The facilities were very comfortable. In fact, they were very nice. The meals were delicious. The best of all was the fellowship we enjoyed in our risen Lord. Each service was rich in spiritual food. This was my first time to attend

so I had the privilege of meeting many new friends. I trust they shall develop into long-time friendships. I seem to be rambling, but words fail me to describe the blessings I received from the meeting.

Eld. James Schafer,
Houston, Texas

CONFERENCE, HER BEST BIRTHDAY PRESENT

There's no way I can express my feeling. I have never been to a service like this in all my life. This is my first year and I hope it won't be my last. I just want to thank Bro. Gilpin for starting such a wonderful service for saved people to come and worship the Lord. My sixteenth birthday was during the Conference this year and it was the best birthday present anyone could have given me. I hope everyone got the blessings that I did. I just wish there was some way to show my appreciation, but the only thing I can say is my cup is over-flowing and I hope I can come again.

Debbie Jackson,
Lexington, Ky.

WORDS CAN'T EXPRESS HER FEELINGS

There are no words in any language that could express my feelings about this Conference. We have attended other Conferences before which turned out to be board campaigns, only to get churches into their organization. Never have I seen and heard Jesus Christ lifted up like He has been here. I'm thankful to God my six children had the privilege to sit through it, also. I feel so indebted to Calvary Baptist Church and Bro. and Sister Gilpin for the good food and lodging, but I could never, never repay for the spiritual food I have received.

Gladys Jackson,
Lexington, Ky.

PRAISES GOD FOR BIBLE CONFERENCE

We praise God for a great Bible Conference and for very safe traveling. "His mercy endureth forever." Mary Ann, Beth Ann and I wish to thank you and Calvary Baptist Church for a very gracious time. We sure heard some very good preaching. I have heard you do some great preaching, but never any better than this one on Angels. All our folk greatly enjoyed themselves. May God bless you and the church in His grace and mercy.

Cletus Snyder,
Winston-Salem, N. C.

ANTICIPATING NEXT YEAR

I have really enjoyed being here. I will be back next year if the Lord's willing.

Wm. Darrell Jackson,
Lexington, Ky.

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT YEAR

May God bless you and Calvary Baptist Church in your Annual Bible Conference that I was privileged to attend this year. I shall never forget the wonderful fellowship and sermons on great Bible truth. I am looking forward to being at the Conference next year.

John E. Cooper,
Columbus, Miss.

A BLESSING BEYOND DESCRIPTION

I know that many people were impressed with the excellent lodging and delicious food, and so were we, but the preaching, singing and sweet fellowship was a blessing beyond description. If one had the Scripture references used in all the messages of the Conference, he would be able to follow through to a successful study of the entire Bible. I would recommend to every reader of TBE to prepare a study outline as each message as published in the paper. I am sure that every Christian left the Conference

with a purpose to put into practice many of the things seen and heard while there.

Eld. Hiram Lumpkin,
Leesville, La.



Precious To The Lord

(Continued from page seven)
the city of Nain (Luke 7:11, 15). And third, Lazarus being raised (John 11:38, 44). Just as noted in verse 24 of John 12, Jesus said, "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." You can place a grain of corn, or wheat, in a glass jar and it will never bring forth another grain, but plant it in the soil where God has placed the virtue to cause life, and many grains of fruit is the result. So Christ used this work of nature to produce life, to show that only God can cause spiritual life. When Christ died, His life was not taken, He gave it (John 10:18). Death did not conquer Christ, He conquered death. He met it on its own battle field and emerged victorious and when He was raised, His people stood with Him (Revelation 1:8), (I Cor. 15:23). Christ's victory over death's domain was a pledge or guarantee of the same for His people or of the much fruit to follow as He said in John 12:24. "Afterwards, they that are His at His coming," as is the wording in I Cor. 15:23. Surely therefore it is Scriptural to think of the preciousness of the death of God's saints from this point of view, as to how we stand represented in Him before God.

IV

The death of a saint is precious in God's sight because he is at home with the Lord.

Jesus said in His high priestly prayer:

"Father I will that they also whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory, which thou has given me, for thou lovest me before the foundation of the world."—John 17:24.

The Apostle Paul also was inspired to say:

"For to me to live is Christ, but to die is gain."—Phil. 1:21.

It, therefore, is a gain to a saint to depart in death, even though because of natural ties we sorrow over the loss of those dear to us.

As we noted before, I do not believe that a saint enters at death into the full and complete possession of all that God has prepared for those redeemed by the grace of His Son, but into a blissful paradise of sweet consciousness while yet awaiting Christ's second coming and the resurrection. As Christ spoke those words in John 17:24, He certainly was anticipative of His people entering into His presence, and surely as each saint enters His presence He sees another part or portion of the travail of his soul. We read:

"He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied. By his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many, for he shall bear their iniquities."—Isa. 53:11.

In conclusion, let us say in the face of this pointed passage that the Saviour of sinners will be completely satisfied as He beholds the travail of His soul, because He did not shed His blood for haphazard guesses, with nothing certain in purpose, but for a great multitude given Him in the covenant of redemption to be of the chosen out of Adam's fallen race.

As each of us lay down the earthly house, and enter the presence of the Lord we are of a certainty precious to Him, because God purposed that He would be honored and magnified in those saved by the grace of His Son.

"That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."—Eph. 2:7.

SAY, BAPTIST FRIEND—

How about sending ten "subs" for ten
of your Baptist friends who need the Truth
this paper stands for?

TEN SUBS \$10.00

IN ADDITION, WE WILL RENEW YOUR OWN FREE!

(No less than ten "subs" accepted at this price.)

1. Name _____
Address _____
Zip _____
2. Name _____
Address _____
Zip _____
3. Name _____
Address _____
Zip _____
4. Name _____
Address _____
Zip _____
5. Name _____
Address _____
Zip _____
6. Name _____
Address _____
Zip _____
7. Name _____
Address _____
Zip _____
8. Name _____
Address _____
Zip _____
9. Name _____
Address _____
Zip _____
10. Name _____
Address _____
Zip _____

Enclosed \$_____ for _____ Subs

Your Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

GIVE US READERS
We Will Give Them The Truth

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
NOVEMBER 21, 1970
PAGE EIGHT