

# 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

OL. 39, No. 46 ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, DECEMBER 26, 1970 WHOLE NUMBER 1668

## IS THERE A LITERAL HELL?

Preached during World War II)  
By WILLIAM WARD AYER

Psalm 9:17; Matthew 10:28;  
Luke 16:19-24; Hebrews 2:3;  
Revelation 20:10, 13-14.

The man-named hell which the present war has created, with its obvious purpose of destroying lawlessness and maintaining order among the nations, may be proof as well as vivid revelation of the reality of the hell which God is to create for the segregation and destruction of universal forces that would destroy His purposes and man's freedom in God's far-seeing plan.

Sensitive souls shudder at the application of a Biblical hell, as they shudder when they read of the hell which our bombers were creating in Europe, as there was a hell created in Warsaw, and Amsterdam, London and Coventry by the Germans. Yet we are prone to justify

this man-made perdition on the ground that it is necessary. The unusual, cruel and devilish situations which prevailed under Hitlerian rule demanded unusual, cruel and all but devilish retaliation. We say we regret the suffering but in order that the many may be free those who are guilty must suffer.

We are faced immediately with the question as to whether God takes this attitude in His universal rule. The great complaint against the thought of a literal hell is that God is love. But love is not a soft, wishy-washy sentiment — love can be terrible at times, especially in protecting the object of its love.

### Love In A Moral Sense

Among the arguments presented for the necessity of bombing great cities is one that says something of this sort: "The Americans' intense love of freedom makes necessary this terrible procedure in the conduct of war. Love of freedom is stronger than

hatred of suffering." I am not at all sure that I can coincide with that thought, because obviously too many of the innocent suffer with the guilty. It is not so in God's economy. While the revelation of God makes plain that love has provided a way of escape, it nevertheless teaches that if sin is persisted in it is sure to meet terrible condemnation and excruciating punishment. You see, we must learn that ours is a moral universe and, being so, broken law must meet its penalty somewhere. No wrong committed, no evil perpetrated can escape an infinite, holy, and just God. Somewhere, somehow, sometime in the universe every evil must be brought to judgment.

The moral looseness of modern civilization and the lethargic operation of our legal system make us think that because millions "get away with it" here,

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criminals and sinners can get away with it everywhere. We have fallen upon evil days in America. Murderers are oftentimes acquitted or are given trivial sentences. Adulterers (as in the recent case of several prominent motion-picture actors) are declared innocent when obviously they are guilty. Even war criminals are rarely ever brought to justice. But remember that God has said that His ways are not man's ways, and no offender will ever get away with it in eternity.

Now in regard to hell it is obvious that those evidently going there are the ones who are most

## FUNDAMENTALISTS

BILL FARMER  
Lincoln Park, Michigan

Today, there are many who wear the name "Fundamentalist." This name is generally applied to churches affiliating with the Baptist Bible Fellowship or The World Bible Baptist Fellowship. Also, some Independent Baptists wear the name as a badge. Here are some reasons why most "Fundamentalists" are no better than modernists.

1. They teach a watered down sovereignty of God. Many of them reject the doctrine of election; others ignore it.
2. They teach the greatness of Jesus Christ but emphasize "Dr. so-in-so's great work" in soul winning.
3. They claim to be "old time" Baptists, but let Pedo-Baptists speak in their churches. Many allow rank Arminians and ecumenists to speak for them.
4. They teach a universal, invisible church and all the heresies connected with it. In one of these churches near the writer's home, they believe one church is as good as another. They accept alien-immersion, or alien sprinkling, or alien pouring. They have open communion. And this is typical of most of these churches.
5. They are more zealous than wise! Most will do anything to get a big crowd. The above mentioned church broke all attendance records by having "Bozo the Clown" speak in their Sunday School. Many such instances could be cited. One time the writer attended a "Fundamental" seminary in Chattanooga, Tenn. The church there on their anniversary brought a giant cake to the front of the church. The cake opened and toy soldiers ap-



BILL FARMER

peared and fired toy guns, at the same time toy rocket ships went off all around the building.

The writer feels that real Fundamentalists are real Baptists! If we believe and teach the fundamentals of the Bible, none of the compromises mentioned above will be found in our churches.

## A Wonderful Visit With A Great Church In Chicago

On November 30th and December 1st it was your editor's happy privilege to visit with a group of folk in Chicago which we had organized as a church some three months previously. To say the very least it was a most enjoyable experience and I trust that it proved to be a profitable one for this new church in Chicago.

Since I was pressed for time, I made the trip by plane. My plane was late getting to Louisville, which caused me to miss my connection, and further delayed my getting to Chicago some two hours. Despite this delay, I was warmly and cordially greeted at the airport by Brother Chuck Shanks and two of his sons. They drove me across the city to their home in Oak Lawn (a suburb of Chicago) where Mrs. Shanks was waiting with one of the most bountiful meals that I have had the pleasure of eating.

I might say that I was entertained for the evening meal the next day in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Holmes and they too had a royal repast. I think both of these families must have been

reading recently the story of the Prodigal Son as they truly killed the "fatted calf". I can never thank these folk enough for their kind hospitality to me.

I preached both Monday evening and Tuesday evening to this group, and God gave us very wonderful services. They are hungry for the Word of God, and want nothing else. Naturally it was a joy to me to speak to them. If I have any one prayer growing out of this trip it is that my messages may have been a blessing to this group whom I highly respect in the Lord.

Frankly, I don't know just when I have met people who drink in the Book more avidly than these folk. What a real joy it was to break the Bread of Life unto them and to answer (Continued on page 8, column 4)

### GLOBAL WORLD

A GLOBAL GOD—"Look unto Me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God and there is none else" (Isaiah 45:22).

A GLOBAL GUILT—"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law; that every mouth may be stopped and all the world may become guilty before God" (Romans 3:19).

A GLOBAL GOSPEL—"And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

A GLOBAL LOVE—"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

A GLOBAL SALVATION—"For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved" (John 3:17).

A GLOBAL INVITATION—"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" . . . "and him that cometh unto Me, I will in no wise cast out" (Matt. 11:28; John 6:37).

## Rome's Heresy, Day Worship A Real Curse To Baptists

By ROY MASON  
Aripeka, Florida

The Bible—and especially the New Testament, places very little emphasis on "Day." The Christian religion as defined in the Bible, is a non-liturgical religion that makes little of ceremony and observance. Paul expressed his displeasure with the Galatians who were great "day observers," (see Galat. 4:9-11). He calls day observance reversion to "weak and beggarly elements," which in slave. He says that he is afraid that he has thrown away his labors on the day observers.

The less spirituality people have the more they dote on "day," ritual, and ceremonialism. The Jews took the sabbath and carried its restrictions to absurd lengths. The Lord's Day, or First

Day of the Week, is not a day commanded as was the sabbath, neither are there all sorts of restrictions placed about it. Rather we have the example of Jesus in meeting with the disciples following the resurrection. After His ascension, the disciples continued to meet on that day. Later we find Christian groups still meeting on that day. The day on which Christ revealed Himself as alive from the dead was considered a proper day to meet and to worship and to rejoice in the truth of a risen Saviour. The early "Church Fathers" reveal in their writings that the first day of the week was the worship day of Christians back in their time. An example is found in the epistle of Polycarp who was baptized by the apostle John. Justin Martyr who lived following the days of Polycarp testifies to the same in his writings. The Adventist claim that the Pope changed the sabbath to Sunday is a falsehood, for Sunday (as the world calls it) was observed as the Christian worship day long before the first Pope ever saw the light of day.

(Continued on page 7, column 1)

### SLIPPING GRADUALLY

Psychologists have discovered that if you put a frog in a pail of hot water he will immediately jump out. But if you put him in cool water and then gradually heat it up the frog will permit himself to be cooked apparently being unable to decide when the water is so hot as to be unbearable.

When sudden heinous temptation rears its ugly head, most people instinctively shrink back. But the thing that causes many to get away from God is the almost imperceptible drifting, day by day. First there is neglect of the daily reading of the Scripture, and prayer. Then unnecessary Sunday work and pleasure are countenanced. Next church attendance becomes desultory and spasmodic. And then evil worldly companions enter in and lead the once-earnest Christian into the "questionable" amusements, and later into open, rampant sin.

The best protection is, get out the pot when the water even begins to get warm! LET SIN BE STRICTLY ALONE. Be puritan- (Continued on page 8, column 5)

## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor John R. Gilpin

### "THE GREATEST PROMISES OF THE BIBLE"

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."—II Pet. 1:4.

There are many hundreds of promises. Some brethren say that there are 30,000 promises in the Bible. That couldn't be so, because there are only 31,175 verses in the Bible. The man who says that there are 30,000 promises in the Bible has thus allowed his tongue to wag a little too much.

Regardless of how many prom-

ises there may be (and I do not propose to offer an estimate), I will say that there are a large number of promises — promises made to His church, promises that are made to God's own people, promises that are made to the Jews, promises that have to do with physical health, promises that have to do with material prosperity — all kinds of promises through the length and breadth, and of the entirety and the totality of the Word of God. All of these promises are great and precious. My text says, "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious prom-

ises," and I will say that every promise that is found in the Bible is a great promise — every one is a precious promise.

However, there are some that appear to be greater than others, and there are some that appear to be more precious than others. It is those that I wish to discuss when I talk to you about the greatest promises in the Bible.

### THE PROMISE OF REDEMPTION.

Can you think of anything that could be greater than the promise of redemption? Do you (Continued on page 2, column 2)



## The Baptist Examiner

The Baptist Paper for the Baptist People

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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**  
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Five years — \$7.00; Life — \$25.00  
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## A SECULAR BOOK WHICH WE MOST HEARTILY COMMEND

Although we do not ordinarily call attention to books of a secular nature, there is a new one today, which though secular, ought to be read by every American. The title of this book is "Robbery - Rape - Burglary - Riot - Murder - Arson-Bombings". The subtitle is "The Earl Warren Supreme Court".

The author of this book is a retired attorney, a man of convictions, sterling principles, and outstanding character. I have known him and his family for many years and I take my hat off to Attorney Earl Pratt formerly of Ironton, Ohio, for having produced this book.

In this book Mr. Pratt is waging a one man warfare against the Supreme Court. He declares that the rights of the State Courts have been taken from them and put into the hands of the Federal Court, and that this has resulted in the breakdown of law enforcement and has given rise to the crimes of today. It is sadly true that no longer is the death penalty invoked by the courts. Mr. Pratt calls attention to this, and cites the Word of God as proof that the death penalty should be invoked by the state courts today.

Taking up a great number of particular cases including that of the murder of the eight Chicago student nurses a few years ago and the murder of actress Sharon Tate, Mr. Pratt wages a crusade against Earl Warren and the Supreme Court of which he was the titular head.

This book is well printed, and nicely bound, having been produced by a book publisher of Columbus, Ohio, and can be had at \$5.95. Please send your order to us and we will in turn ask Mr. Pratt to personally autograph and send the book to you.

If you have the same lack of respect for Earl Warren's Supreme Court that your editor and Mr. Pratt have, then I would certainly urge you to order this book at once. You will be amazed at the legal and moral drift of our nation as you read this book, and will certainly pray that God will give us a reversal of conditions in America. Truly such a reversal is badly needed today, just as our readers need to read this excellent book.

## BOOK REVIEW

Here are two books from Zondervan Publishing House, and while they do not present the strongest of doctrines, they do

## A Long Time Friend Goes Home To Be With His Lord

On December 8, it was a sad but happy privilege that I had in preaching the funeral for one of our very best and closest friends, Brother Guy Mountse of Charleston, West Virginia.

I don't know how in the providence of God that Guy ever got on the mailing list of The Baptist Examiner, yet in some manner God saw to it that he became a reader of this paper years ago. What a blessing, encouragement, and inspiration he has been from that time down through the years.

It would be impossible to say how many times he has visited us, or to tell how many friends he has brought from Charleston, that they too might visit in our home. He was so enthused over our stand for the Word of God that he tried to get everyone else that he could to have fellowship in our home and church, that they might be blessed thereby. It would be impossible to estimate the number of persons whose subscriptions he has sent in for The Baptist Examiner. Yet in it all, he did so, serving God to the best of his human ability.

He and Ginny, his wife, had never known a grandparent but he always told his friends when he would invite them to visit us that "it was just like going to Grandpa's house". Many is the time that he has called me such in a loving and endearing manner. Actually he did love me for

the Truth's sake.

Several years ago from the Governor of Kentucky, I secured an Honorary Colonelcy in behalf of Brother Mountse, and on one occasion when he brought nearly 30 people to our home, I surprised him with the presentation of this honorary Kentucky award.

I have said all this that you might know the mutual feeling that existed between the families.

Brother Guy was a member of Randolph Street Baptist Church of Charleston which is pastored by Brother Robert McNeil. Ordinarily, Brother McNeil would have preached the funeral, but since he was to be out of town, he personally called me in behalf of Sister Mountse and of course, I was glad for the privilege to preach the funeral sermon. I used as my text the great verse in Malachi, which says, "The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity." (Mal. 2:6). If there ever was an individual that this verse was applicable to it was to Brother Mountse. He loved the Truth — Truth about the church, the doctrines of grace, and the premillennial return of Christ.

Seated in the funeral home were many individuals that Guy had brought to my home, and thereby we had gotten acquaint-

present the Truth of God's Word, and we would surely recommend each of these books to our readers.

These books are: Expository Sermons on the Book of Daniel, Volume 2, Chapters 1-3, by W. A. Criswell, the price of which is \$3.50. Included are such sermons as:

The Captives in the Court of Babylon  
Do or Die Decisions  
Wine or Water  
The Dream of Nebuchadnezzar  
The Sweep of Human History  
The Mystic Stone  
The Sure and Unfailing Word of God  
The Image of Gold  
For the Faith Forever  
In the Fiery Furnace  
The Mysterious Presence

The second of these books is: "Simple Sermons for the Midweek Service" by W. Herschel Ford, the price of which is \$2.95. Among the messages included in this series are:

People Our Church Could Do Without  
People Our Church Could Not Do Without  
Does It Really Pay to Be a Christian?  
Jesus Is All You Need  
The Greatest Fact of History  
Peace In the Valley  
Tremendous Needs for Troubled Times  
The Friend of God  
God's Outstanding Man

These books may be ordered from us and they are well worth the price. I think they would be an asset and a blessing to every preacher's library particularly.

### "Greatest Promises"

(Continued from page one)  
realize that the first promise God ever gave to this world was the promise of redemption? Do you realize that when sin entered the human family that immediately God gave the first promise, and that first promise had to do with the matter of redemption? We read:

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and

between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."—Gen. 3:15.

This was God holding inquisition with Adam and his wife and the serpent, and God says that He is going to put enmity between the serpent and the woman — between her seed and the seed of the serpent. There never was but one that could be called "her seed" and that is Jesus Christ. All others of us were born of the combined seed of man and woman, but the Lord Jesus Christ was "her seed." The Lord Jesus Christ had no human father. He was the seed of the woman, and could rightly be called "her seed."

This, I say, is the first prophecy that was ever given, and you will notice that the prophecy was that the Lord Jesus Christ should bruise the head of the serpent.

I say then, this is the first promise in the Bible. It is the fountainhead of all promises. All other promises flow out from this one, and consequently this is the first promise so far as redemption is concerned.

May I insist then that this is a marvelous promise. I might turn all the way through the Word of God and give you promise after promise of like nature, each speaking about the redemption that is to be ours in Jesus Christ.

Isn't it wonderful that God gave to us the promise of redemption immediately after the entrance of sin into the human family? If you will read Genesis 3, you will find that Adam and Eve had just sinned, and now that they know that judgment has been pronounced upon them, immediately God gives a promise of redemption. All the way through the Book — from Genesis to Revelation — you will find promise after promise of redemption.

I say, beloved, to me one of the greatest things that is promised in all the Bible, is the redemption that is ours in the Lord Jesus Christ.

### II

**THE PROMISE OF EVERLASTING LIFE THROUGH SIMPLE FAITH IN JESUS, PLUS NOTHING.**

I don't know how many hundreds of promises that we might read that would tell us that we are saved by simple faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, plus nothing, minus nothing — just simple

faith in Jesus Christ. Listen: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."—John 3:16.

You will notice that we have everlasting life promised to us through Jesus Christ, plus nothing, minus nothing — just by simple faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Notice again: "He that BELIEVETH on the Son hath everlasting life."—John 3:36.

"He that heareth my word, and BELIEVETH ON HIM that sent me, hath everlasting life."—John 5:24.

"He that BELIEVETH on me hath everlasting life."—John 6:47.

I might go on through the Word of God time after time, instance after instance, and show you we have His promise of everlasting life through simple faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am glad that I can say that our salvation — the everlasting life that is promised to us — is through just simple faith in Jesus

Christ. It is not simple faith plus something else, and it is not simple faith minus something else, but it is just simple God-given faith in the Son of God as a Saviour.

To me, this is a marvelous promise and I refer to it in the same category as the first promise that I mentioned when I referred to the promise of redemption. Immediately, I add to it the promise of everlasting life through simple faith in Jesus Christ.

### III

**THE PROMISE TO MAKE EVERYTHING TO TURN OUT FOR GOOD TO THOSE WHO BELONG TO GOD.**

To me, this is in a class all to itself, next only to my salvation. We read: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose."—Rom 8:28.

Notice, this is talking about the individuals who love God. It is talking about the individuals (Continued on page 4, column 4)

## COL. AND MRS. GUY MOUNTSE



Here is a picture recalling happier days. It was made in front of our printing shop. It was made on one of the many visits that Mr. and Mrs. Mountse have made to our home. They have been a great blessing to me personally and though Guy has been taken home to be with the Lord, the memory of him will continue to be an inspiration.

ed with one another. It was thus impressed upon me as to Guy's faithfulness as to sharing the Truth with others.

As you may know, very few people go to funerals anymore, yet there was a tremendous

crowd at the funeral of Brother Mountse, and what a joy it was to preach to them and to bring comfort to Mrs. Mountse, and to have fellowship with Guy's friends both before and after the service.

## Preacher's Son Killed In Accident In Washington

On Monday evening, December 14, David Blair, the third eldest son of Elder and Mrs. Jim Blair of Sumas, Washington was killed in an automobile accident.

David was a high school senior and was riding in a car that ran into a horse drawn wagon that was pulling a group of young folk that were singing Christmas carols. The team broke away and some 26 youngsters that were riding in the wagon were thrown in every direction, yet none of these were seriously hurt. However, in the providence of God our young Brother Blair was killed.

I am convinced more and more that "there is a time to be born and a time to die". It is most consoling to me to remember this text as I think of the death of this young high school senior.

Immediately the next morning, Brother Jim Blair, David's father, called to tell us the tragic story. Brother Jim was baptized into Calvary Baptist Church and ordained by our church in 1959. He has been a most faithful ser-

vant of our Lord even under adverse circumstances through the years.

Brother Jim wanted me to make the trip to Sumas to conduct the funeral service, and it was certainly my desire to do so, yet this was an impossibility as circumstances here prevented my going, although it was my desire to have visited the family, comforted them, and preached to the crowd of youngsters that came to the funeral services honoring the deceased.

I would certainly ask that our readers remember Brother Blair and his family much in prayer. They are one of the finest families that I have ever known, and I thank God that in His providence He has brought us together. May the comforting grace of our God rest upon them in this hour of sadness. If you would care to do so, drop a note of encouragement and sympathy to them at this address: Elder Jim Blair, Route No. 1, Box 171, Sumas, Washington, 98295. I'm sure they would appreciate it.



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## The Baptist Examiner FORUM

"Some Plymouth brethren and Church of Christ friends say that the New Testament church had a plurality of elders, and that the practice of one pastor over the church is a departure from the New Testament pattern. They say that most of the time when reference is made to Elders in the New Testament it is in the plural and not in the singular. What is your opinion on this?"



ROY  
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It seems to me that the New Testament does teach a plurality of Elders. For instance in the church at Antioch (Acts 13:1-4) we find a number of men ministering in various capacities. There were "prophets" (preachers as I understand it), and there were "teachers", and at least two of these became missionaries.

However, I do not find that churches are commanded to have a certain number of Elders, so it is not obligatory for a church to have a specified number of these. Some churches are very small and one man can readily pastor it.

Larger churches today have a whole string of men on the pay roll. There is perhaps a musical director, an educational director, a director of church activities in some cases, and perhaps a female whom they call "hostess." They occupy offices that have no precedent or warrant in the Scriptures. In my judgment it would be far better to have men who claim to be called of God, to minister as Elders — some preaching, some teaching, etc. Instead of the farce today known as "Sunday school," in which little Bible knowledge is imparted, how much better it would be to have a serious school of the Bible, with called men of God — well prepared men of God — to teach. Instead, often the pastor does not teach. The teaching is turned over to people who are not called of God, and many of these know little about the Scriptures.

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It is true that most of the New Testament churches had a plurality of Elders. Nowhere do I find, however, that this is a requirement.

As one theology book said, it was incidental and not incumbent on all churches. The author also said it was the size and scarcity of the churches that gave rise to a plurality of Elders.

We do have an example of churches with just one minister. "The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches."—(Rev. 1:20).

The stars or angels of the

churches are the ministers of the churches. You will notice that there are seven churches and seven ministers, or one minister for each of the churches.

There is nothing wrong with having more than one minister in the church, as long as one serves as the overseer. This is what Peter did. He was the pastor and the others were his associates.

If a church has several ministers, fine. Keep them busy. Provide preaching points for them. Let them expound the Word of God. Let the pastor guide and direct them. In other words, let them have every opportunity to glorify the Lord. Stand behind them in prayer.

AUSTIN  
FIELDS

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I will agree that there was a plurality of elders in some churches, but this was not true in every church. I disagree with their theory that the practice of one pastor over each church is a departure from the New Testament pattern. The New Testament, as well as the Old Testament, reveals that there was always a man who was the overseer (pastor-bishop-shepherd) of the assembly. When Israel (type of the church) came out of Egypt, she came out under one shepherd, who was Moses, and when Moses was taken from them, another one was selected, who was Joshua. In the new testament times, this policy was still intact.

"And Crispus, THE CHIEF RULER of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing, believed, and were baptized."—Acts 18:8

When Jesus Christ created His body (baptist church) and breathed power into her on Pentecost and separated her from all others, the pattern which He used to govern His church was the same as it was with Israel. This pattern consisted of many elders but only one who acted as overseer. The Spirit in referring to the pastor, calls him the star or angel of the church.

"The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches; and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest, are the seven churches."—Rev. 1:20

This verse reveals 7 candlesticks, which he defines as the 7 churches, and the 7 stars are the angels of the 7 churches. These angels were the pastors of these 7 churches. In writing to these churches, the Spirit pictures one star (angel-pastor) for each candlestick (church). As we read the letters which the Spirit had John write (one to each church), he very emphatically points out that there was one pastor for each particular church. There may have been many elders in these churches, but in each, there was only one angel to whom the spirit wrote.

"Unto the angel of the church

of Ephesus write: These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks."—Rev. 2:1

To further substantiate the fact that there should be one pastor for each church, may I point out that the letter to the church at Ephesus was not written to angels (plural), rather it was angel (singular). If the theory advocated by the Plymouth Brethren and Church of Christ were true, the letters would have been written to the angels (pastors) instead of the angel (pastor).

Brethren, I am very much aware that many who interpret Rev. 2 and teach the 7 churches as 7 dispensations. In their exposition, they picture each church as representing a certain time period from Christ up until the end, but I can find no scriptural justification for their theory for the Bible pictures churches in every age, even now, with the same characteristics of the 7 in these 2 chapters. The scriptures, in speaking of the body of Christ (baptist), always speaks of her as a local independent church. I can find no place where she is to be pictured as a certain dispensation. The Word of God calls her the church which is at Ephesus, Corinth or churches of Galatia, and to refer to her in some other way is unscriptural. Therefore, the angels which John wrote to were the 7 pastors of 7 local Independent Baptist churches of Asia.

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers:—Eph. 4:11

I would have you notice that the Spirit makes a separation between pastors and teachers. Thus, there could be many teachers in the church, but because he has the God-given ability to teach would not make him the pastor. The offices of pastor and teacher are not the same. The teacher can teach and instruct, but it is the pastor who must hear and speak for the church; therefore, the practice of one pastor over the church is not a departure from the New Testament pattern.

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It seems that these friends are right in their assertion that the word "Elders" (PRESBUTEROS) in the New Testament is plural in most cases. And I am persuaded that our present day churches have departed from the New Testament pattern in more ways than one. But when we try to determine just what the exact function of the pastor, the bishop and the elders was in the early churches we may very well get dizzy.

The pastor (POIMEN) was definitely placed in the church, Eph. 4:11. And the meaning of this Greek word would indicate that the pastor was the one who tended or watched over the flock. He was also one who fed the flock. However, a bishop (EPISKOPOS) was also an overseer. He too was one who was to watch over or look after the flock. Some Bible scholars hold that the bishop was the pastor and that the elders were other preachers in the church who aided the pastor. And they may very well be right. But one problem still remains, and that is, Why did the Holy Spirit use two different words POIMEN and EPISKOPOS to indicate the same position in the church?

Then in Acts 20:17 we see Paul sending to Ephesus and calling for the elders of the church. And when they were come to him he says in verse 28 that the Holy

## THE TWO GLASSES

There sat two glasses filled to the brim  
On an old man's table, rim to rim.  
One was wine and red as blood;  
One was water from the crystal flood.  
Said the glass of wine to the paler brother  
As they told their tales the one to the other:  
"I can tell of banquets, revel and mirth,  
And the proudest and grandest souls on earth  
That fell under my touch as though struck by blight  
When I am monarch and rule in might,  
From the heads of kings I have torn the crown;  
From the height of fame I have hurled men down.  
I have blasted many an honored name.  
I have taken virtue and given shame.  
I have made the arm of the driver fail  
And sent the train from the iron rail.  
I have made good ships go down at sea  
And the cries of the lost were sweet to me."  
"Ho, Ho, pale brother," laughed the wine,  
"Can you boast of deeds as great as mine?"

Said the glass of water, "I cannot boast  
Of a king dethroned or a murdered host.  
But I can tell of a heart once sad  
By my crystal drops made light and glad.  
Of thirst I've quenched and brows I've laved,  
Of hands I've cooled and souls I've saved.  
I have slept in the sunshine and dropped from the sky,  
And everywhere gladdened the landscape and eye.  
I have eased the hot forehead of fever and pain,  
I have made parched meadows grow fertile with grain.  
I can tell of the powerful wheel of the mill  
That ground out the flour and turned at my will.  
I can tell of manhood debased by you  
That I have lifted and crowned anew.  
I cheer, I heal, I strengthen and aid.  
I gladden the heart of man and maid.  
I set the chained, wine-captive free,  
And all are better for knowing me!"

These are the tales they told each other,  
The glass of wine and its paler brother,  
As they sat together, filled to the brim  
On the old man's table, rim to rim.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Spirit had made them overseers of the flock. And he commanded them to feed the church. So it would appear that there were several elders in the early churches who had very much the same responsibility. But I am fully convinced that it would take the miraculous power of Almighty God to make such an arrangement work in our churches today. He who said in Mt. 24:12 "The love of many shall wax cold" must have known what He was talking about.

Brother Glenn Archer has well said in the December 1970 issue of Baptist Beacon "Perhaps at no other time in the history of the church has fellowship between churches been at such a low ebb. By this I mean the fellowship between the true churches of the Lord. The successes of our brethren arouse our jealousy, their failures our criticism." It seems that in our day the love and respect the preachers had for each other in the early churches has been replaced by jealousy and criticism.

## "Greatest Promises"

(Continued from page two)  
who are "the called." God is going to make everything work together for good to those who love God — to those who are the called according to His purpose in Christ.

So I say that this is a marvelous promise that God has given us — a promise whereby He tells us that everything is going to work out for good to those who love the Lord.

That includes sickness. That includes every bit of sickness that there is within this world.

That includes war and all the individuals that are killed in all wars. I can say to you frankly, I am not a draft-card burner. I certainly am not an individual who goes about objecting to the way in which those who are in charge are handling the war situation. I will say this, so far as I am concerned, I don't think much of this present war in Viet-

nam, nor any other war. I realize though, that even war, and those who are killed in war, are a part of the "all things" that are spoken of in Romans 8:28.

I'll go further and say that this passage of Scripture in Romans 8:28 not only includes sickness, and not only includes those who are killed in war, but this passage includes the chastening that comes to us from the Lord. There isn't a one of us who are saved but has felt oftentimes the chastening hand of God. The Bible says: "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth."—Heb. 12:6.

If the Lord loves us, He is going to chasten us. I say to you, there isn't any saved one but doubtlessly has felt the chastening hand of God. Regardless of how it smarts, and regardless of how badly it makes you feel at the time, remember this, it is a part of the "all things" that Paul speaks about in Romans 8:28.

Then I think about the works of Satan. Certainly the old Devil has done a lot of things so far as you and I are concerned that seemingly are definitely contrary to us. I think how he has fought against us as a church. I think how he has tried his best to hinder the work of THE BAPTIST EXAMINER. I think how he has hurt us in many, many ways in our ministry. Yet I say that the Word of God declares that "we know that all things work together for good to them that love God."

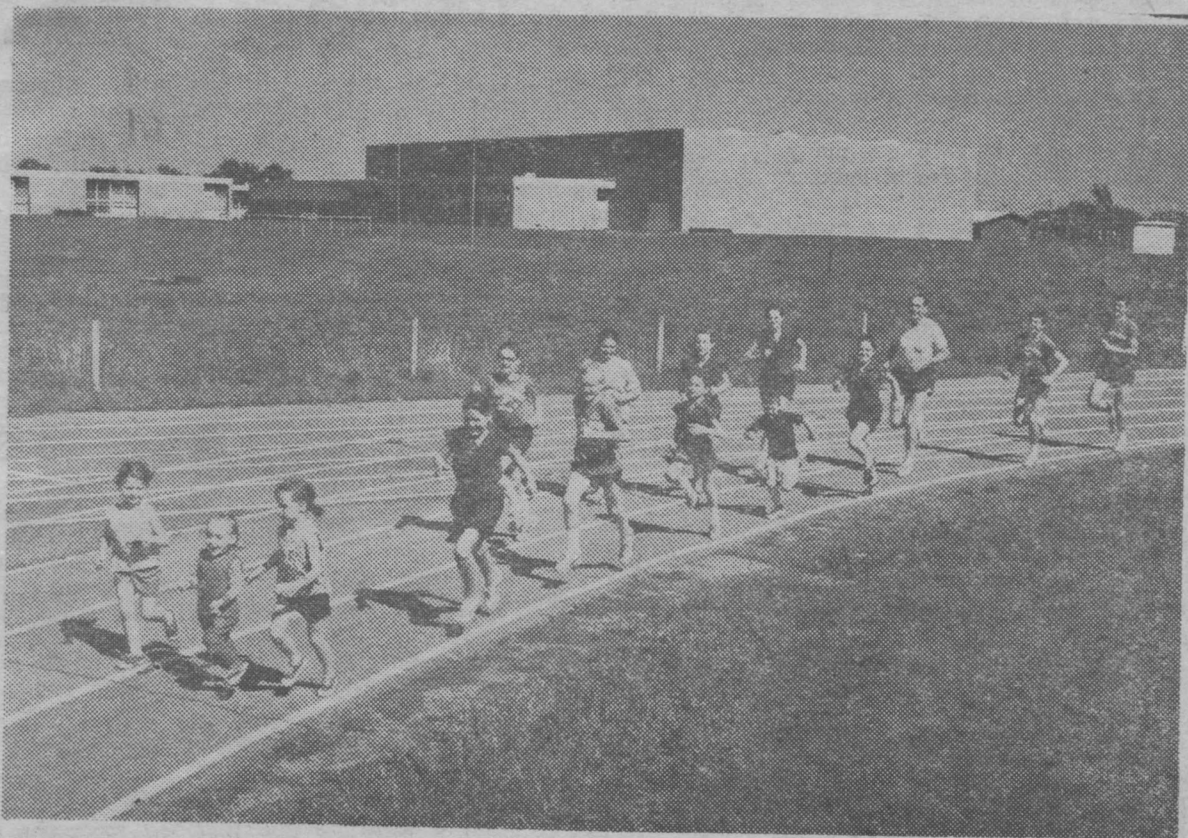
So I say that sickness, and war and those who are killed in war, and the chastening hand of God, and the works of Satan, as well as all the other events in life, are a part of God's plan, and He has promised to make all those work together for good to those who love the Lord.

This promise to me is one of the great and precious promises of the Word of God. It certainly is something that I can fall back upon. It certainly is a soft pillow for me many, many times, when difficulties arise in life. I think how easy it is for us to get discouraged, and how hard it is for us to keep going sometimes in (Continued on page 5, column 1)



To bring all of creation into being, God had only to speak; but, to save us, His Son had to die.

## THE FRED PHELPS FAMILY



Elder and Mrs. Fred Phelps of the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas, and the entire family of 13 children have taken up running about a year ago.

Both Fred and Sister Phelps were some 50 pounds overweight. Some 18 months ago when they read a caption on the back of a Wheaties box, believing that running might be a blessing to them, they began to exercise. They have kept up this running, rarely missing a day in all kinds of weather, as they say, for improved health for all of them, along with a marvelous sense of fitness and well-being.

The Bible says, "For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." 1 Tim. 4:8. It is true that this text says that exercise is only of a little profit, yet in the case of this preacher and his family it has been a great deal of profit. Both Fred and his wife have lost over 50 pounds as a result of this running, and it could be that the experience of this family might prove to be an incentive to some overly fat preachers that I know.

### "Greatest Promises"

(Continued from page 4)

God's service. I think that it is well that we recall that the predestinating purposes of God underlie every event of our lives.

I differ with the Hardshells on this 100 per cent. The Hardshells say that God predestinates your salvation, but the events of your life are all up to you. I don't believe that, beloved. I believe that every event in our life is according to the predestinating purpose and plan of Almighty God, and that there isn't anything in this world that comes to pass, or that takes place in your life or mine, that wasn't predestinated for us according to the plan of God for each of us.

So, beloved, I say in the light of that, it is wonderful to know that He has given us a promise that all things work together for good to those who love the Lord.

IV

#### THE PROMISE TO KEEP US SAFE AFTER WE ARE SAVED.

In this you and I are entirely in agreement, but there are a lot of people that wouldn't agree with us at all. Lots of folk talk about falling from grace, and losing your salvation, and apostatizing to the extent that they are lost again after having been saved. All I can say to that group that believes in falling from grace is that if they could fall, it is "Katy, bar the door." They could never be saved again. We read:

"It is impossible . . . if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance." — Heb. 6:6.

Mark it down, if a man could sin enough to lose his salvation, he never could be saved again, but I thank God that we have a promise that He is going to keep us safe after we are saved. Listen:

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall NEVER PERISH, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one." — John 10:28-30.

I read elsewhere in the Word of God the same thing. Listen:

"He that heareth my word, and

believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and SHALL NOT COME INTO CONDEMNATION; but is passed from death unto life." — John 5:24.

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in NO WISE CAST OUT." — John 6:37.

So you see, beloved, we have a promise that He is going to keep us safe after we are saved.

I don't mean to say that you and I live perfectly. There isn't one of us that has lived a perfect life any one day of our life, nor any one hour of our life. We have sinned over and over and over again. In spite of the fact that you and I sin, how I thank God that our sins are already charged to the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ who died and paid for those sins, and I rejoice to know that He is going to keep us safe after we have been saved. I consider this one of the greatest promises in the Word of God.

V

#### THE PROMISE TO BRING US OUT OF OUR GRAVES IF WE DIE BEFORE THE LORD RETURNS.

I don't think you and I who are living in this present day have any business to talk about death, or to think that we are going to die, or to make plans relative to death. I think that we ought to think about the fact that Jesus Christ is coming back to this world again. It seems to me that there is every evidence in this world to believe that Jesus Christ is going to return to this world at an early date. I would say that there isn't a hint — there isn't an indication — there isn't anything that would cause us to think that the coming of the Son of God might be put off for months and years, for decades, or for even a century. I say to you, we ought to expect the coming of the Son of God day by day.

But if Christ delays His coming you and I are going to die, and we are going down into the grave. As I often say, I look behind me and back yonder it seems that all that I can see in the background is graves, and graves, and graves — graves of fathers, graves of mothers, and graves of greyhaired grandsires, and graves of grandchildren. Those graves are all covered

over. The grass is growing on many of them. I look backward and it seems that there is nothing in the background but graves.

When I look out before me, unless Jesus Christ comes, I will say that there is nothing but graves out before us. They are all open and waiting. Mine is out there and yours is out there, and unless Jesus Christ comes and takes us away from this world, you and I are going to go down into those graves sooner or later.

But, beloved, here is a promise — a mighty promise, that He is going to bring us out of our grave if we die before the Lord Jesus returns. Listen:

"And the dead in Christ shall rise first." — 1 Thess. 4:16.

This is talking about the second coming — how that Jesus is going to come and the saints of God are going to be caught up into the sky with Him. But before we are caught up, the dead in Christ shall rise first.

I don't believe that our resurrection is going to be that of a vapor. I don't believe that it is going to be sort of a ghost-like affair. I think it is going to be a literal resurrection of a literal body — the bodies that you and I have lived in, that go down into the grave. That body is going to come out of the grave. There is going to be a resurrection and I don't know anything that is any more precious than to remember that there is a promise that the dead in Christ shall rise. There is a promise in our behalf that we are going to be brought out of the grave — that is, if we die before the return of Christ.

VI

#### THE PROMISE OF A PERFECT RULER AND A PERFECT RULE OVER THIS OLD EARTH.

Having mentioned these five promises which have to do with us particularly, I want to mention some others that are just as great, that have to do with things more of a general nature.

Do you realize that some of these days this old earth is going to have a perfect ruler reigning over it. We don't have perfect rulers today. We have kings, we have presidents, we have dictators, and we have those who are in authority and those in charge called by various names, but we don't have a perfect man

## What Would Happen If Rome Came Into Power

Would she lord it over kings and governments?

"The pope, by divine right, has full power over the whole world both in ecclesiastical and political affairs." — Bellarmine's Disputations.

"He is likewise the divine monarch and supreme emperor and king of kings." — Ferraris's Eccles. Dict. 1899.

Would she tolerate religious liberty?

"It follows that it is quite unlawful to demand, to defend, or to grant unconditional freedom of thought, of speech, of writing, or of worship." — The Great Encyclical Letters of Pope Leo XIII, published 1903.

Accursed from Christ. — "Those who assert the liberty of conscience and religious worship. Also all such that assert the church may not use force." — Pope Pius IX., Dec. 8, 1864.

Would she compel assent to her doctrines?

"Religious liberty is merely endured until the opposite can be carried into effect." — Bishop O'Connor, U. S. A.

"The church has decided upon various punishments for heretics: The secular government must at the command and by the direction of the church inflict the punishment of death." — Father Luca, Jesuit, Rome, 1901.

Would she persecute and pose?

"But will the Catholic Church give bond that she will not persecute at all? — The Catholic Church gives no bonds for good behavior." — The West Watchman (R.C.) December 1908.

"Heretics, schismatics and rebels to our said lord, the pope will to my utmost persecute and oppose." — Extract from oath of allegiance required of cardinals, archbishops and bishops.

Would she seek to destroy Protestant governments?

"He (the pope) hath power to depose heretical kings, princes, states, commonwealths and governments, all being illegal without his sacred confirmation, so that they may safely be destroyed." — Extract from Priest's Oath.

"Why, if the government of the United States were at war with the church (Catholic) would say tomorrow, to hell with the government of the United States." — Priest Phelan, editor of The Watchman, June 27, 1911.

The extracts are only a FEW of the same purpose. And it is the boast of Rome that she never errs, never can err, and never did. She claims infallibility publicly affirmed less than 10 years ago, with greater positiveness than ever before.

ruling as president, or dictator, or king anywhere within the world. Certainly we don't have a perfect ruler so far as this world is concerned, but thank God, there is a day coming when this old earth is to have just one ruler — the Lord Jesus Christ, and He is going to be a perfect ruler when He reigns.

"For he must reign." — 1 Cor. 15:25. Beloved, there isn't any question about it. There isn't any probability. It doesn't say that He might reign, but it says, "He must reign." I say, beloved, Jesus Christ has to reign on this earth, and to me this is one of the most precious promises in all the Word of God — to know that Jesus is going to reign over this world — to know that we are going to have a perfect ruler reigning from Jerusalem, and that He is going to have a government that is absolutely perfect over all the earth.

Old Satan is an insurrectionist right now. Every once in a while you read about someone, particularly in the Latin American countries, who puts on an insurrection. He doesn't like the government and he rises up in revolt. He has enough people with him sometimes to overthrow the person who is in charge and he takes over the government and reigns sometimes for a good long while. Take Castro, for example, in Cuba. Castro is nothing but an insurrectionist. He became the leader in Cuba as a result of the fact that he was able to overthrow the reigning power.

That is exactly what the Devil of Hell did to this world. Old Satan, old Splitfoot, today is in insurrection against the Lord Jesus Christ, but thank God, it isn't going to last forever. Some of these days the Devil, who has been in rebellion against God for a long, long time, is going to be cast down.

I read in the Old Testament how Absalom rose up against his father, David. He drove his father off the throne and out of the city, out of the country, and over into the country on the east side of Jordan. It was only after a battle wherein that Absalom was killed that David was able to return to the city of Jerusalem. I read about that and when I think about it, and when I recall all that took place so far as Absalom's rebellion was concerned, I say that Absalom was just exactly like the Devil. Absalom had to be put down. Absalom had to be killed. Absalom had to be

gotten out of the way in order that David could go back to Jerusalem to reign. Beloved, some of these days Jesus, who is a perfect ruler, is going to reign with a perfect rule from the city of Jerusalem after the insurrection of Satan has been put down. To me, that is a mighty, mighty precious promise.

I don't look to man. I don't look to the Democrats and I don't look to the Republicans. I certainly don't look to the Communists nor the Socialists. I don't look to any man in any country to ever reign, or to ever rule perfectly. Thank God, I am looking to the Lord Jesus Christ who is a perfect ruler, who is going to reign from Jerusalem, and we are going to have a perfect rule throughout all the earth.

VII  
THE PROMISE OF SATAN'S ULTIMATE OVERTHROW.  
Do you realize that the Devil certainly has had his way here within this world for a long time? But it isn't going to last forever. He is going to have an ultimate defeat. Listen:

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." — Rev. 20:1-3.

Notice how God lets the Devil out of jail, and how he immediately rises in rebellion against God. He is still the same old Devil he was to start with, and then he is cast into Hell.

Beloved, when I read this, I say, "To Hell with the Devil," for that is where he is going.

I have noticed when people go to ball games how excited they get. Sometime ago, there was a program on television and they



# God's Call For Volunteers To Preach To The Heathen

By CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON

"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me." —(Isaiah 6:8).

Brethren, the heathen are perishing, and there is but one way of salvation for them, for there is but one Name given under heaven among men whereby they must be saved. God in the glorious unity of His divine nature is calling for messengers who shall proclaim to men the way of life. Out of the thick darkness my ear can hear that sound mysterious and divine, "Whom



CHARLES H. SPURGEON

shall I send?" While the world lieth under the curse of sin, the living God who willeth not that any should perish, but that they should come to repentance, is seeking for heralds to proclaim His mercy. He is asking even in pleading terms for some who will go forth to the dying millions and tell the wondrous story of His love — "Whom shall I send?" As if to make the voice more powerful by a threefold utterance we hear the sacred Trinity inquire, "Who will go for us?"

I feel in my soul, though I cannot speak it, an inward grieving sympathy with God, that God Himself should have to cry from His throne, "Whom shall I send?" Alas, my God, are there no volunteers for Thy service? What, all these priests and sons of Aaron, will none of these run upon Thine errand? And all these Levites, will none of them offer himself? No, not one. Ah, it is grievous, grievous beyond all thought, that there should be such multitudes of men and women in the Church of God who nevertheless seem unfit to be sent upon the Master's work, or at least never offer to go, and He has to cry, "Whom shall I send?"

What, out of these saved ones, no willing messengers to the heathen! Where are His ministers? Will none of these cross the seas to heathen lands? Here are thousands of us working at home. Are none of us called to go abroad? Will none of us carry the Gospel to regions beyond?

Are none of us bound to go? Does the divine voice appeal to our thousands of preachers and find no response, so that again it cries, "Whom shall I send?" Here and there a young man, perhaps with little qualification and no experience, offers himself, and he may or may not be welcomed, but can it be true that the majority of educated intelligent Christian young men are more willing to let the heathen be damned than to let the treasures of the world go into other hands?

We shall not always throw the emphasis on the last word, "me," but read it also thus, "Here am I; send me." He is willing to go, but he does not want to go without being sent, and so the prayer is, "Lord, send me. I beseech Thee of Thine infinite grace qualify me, open the door for me, and direct my way. I do not need to be forced, but I would be commissioned. I do not ask for compulsion, but I do ask for guidance. I would not run of my own head under the notion that I am doing God a service. Send me then, O Lord, if I may go; guide me, instruct me, prepare me and strengthen me." Make no terms with God. Put it, "Here am I; send me — where Thou wilt, to the wildest region, or even to the jaws of death. I am Thy soldier; put me in the front of the battle if Thou wilt, or bid me lie in the trenches; give me gallantly to charge at the head of my regiment, or give me silently to sap and mine the foundations of the enemy's fortresses. Use me as thou wilt; send me, and I will go. I leave all else to thee, only here I am, Thy willing servant, wholly consecrated to Thee."

With my appeal, in earnest and at once, for it is the appeal of God, sit down and listen to that sorrowful yet majestic demand, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And then respond, "Ready, aye, ready; ready for anything to which our Redeemer calls us." Let those who love Him, as they perceive all around them the terrible token of the world's dire need, cry in agony of Christian love, "Here am I; send me."

## "Greatest Promises"

(Continued from page five) focused the camera on a woman who was the mother of a boy that was playing basketball. It showed how she was going out of her mind with ecstatic joy because of the game that her son was playing. She was jumping up and down, and was shouting, and was applauding and clapping her hands over her son's playing.

I expect some of you mothers act the same way, and I expect most of you fathers might act the same way. You would jump up and down and shout and clap your hands.

Beloved, some of these days the Devil is going to be ultimately defeated and when that takes place, I am going to have a ring-side seat where I can see, and I expect to shout myself hoarse that day, if it is possible for me to do so. I expect to shout, and clap my hands, and applaud, and jump up and down more than anybody who ever got into the spirit of the game whenever he was watching and cheering his

know how far the astronauts will go, but I know one thing, there are many distant planets and there are many distant worlds ahead to be visited, and I know that the Word of God says that "they shall reign for ever and ever."

Beloved, listen, there are many wonderful adventures ahead for God's children. There are many distant planets. There are many distant worlds to be visited. There are many wonderful enterprises to engage in out yonder in the future, and His saints are going to reign forever and ever with Him.

When ever I think about this I am glad I am a child of God. I am always glad for that, but in a special way when I think about the fact that His saints will reign forever and ever. It thrills my heart and I rejoice at the promise of living and reigning with Christ Jesus.

Great things are in store for us! You and I don't realize how great they are. We are tied down, we are limited, we are handicapped here in this world with a fleshly body. We can't realize what it is going to be like when we drop this robe of flesh, and when we can instantaneously be here, and a moment later we can be thousands and millions of miles away. We don't realize what is out before us, but I say to you, there are many glorious adventures awaiting the child of God.

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There are many distant planets and many distant worlds to be explored and to be visited. There are many wonderful experiences to be engaged in. All that is ours in the ages that are ahead. It is a glorious promise to know that we are going to live and reign with Christ Jesus. As this text says, "And they shall reign for ever and ever."

## CONCLUSION

Now, beloved, I have named some eight promises. I have referred to this sermon under the subject, "The Greatest Promises of the Bible." You might think of some promises that are even greater than the ones that I have mentioned, but to me these eight are marvelously great promises. They are wonderful promises for the future, and all these belong only to the child of God. There isn't a promise here that an unsaved person can claim for himself.

In view of that, I ask you a simple question: are you saved? Do you know Jesus Christ as your Saviour? If not:

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

May God bless you, may God save you, and may you be ready for the great things that are ahead, and the wonderful experiences that are going to be ours to enjoy; and right now, you will be able, with me, to thank God for these great and precious promises that I have enumerated to you.

May God bless you.

# What Effect Has TBE Had By Its Message On Lodgism?

Here is a question we've answered many times privately of recent date: "What effect have your articles in THE BAPTIST EXAMINER against secretism and lodgism had on lodge members themselves?"

That's a good question, and here's my answer:

It has made some of them boiling mad.

It has caused three Masons who were paid subscribers to THE BAPTIST EXAMINER to discontinue their subscriptions.

It has caused two of our chief supporters to write me that they could no longer support me if I persisted in my attacks on Masonry.

It has caused over thirty Masons to write me endorsing every word that I have written as being true.

It has caused the CHRISTIAN CYNOSURE (anti-lodge paper)

to re-print my article exposing Masonry, in full, in their paper.

It has caused one of my brethren to send me \$100 for the work of T.B.E.

It has turned many, many dollars into our treasury and many new subscriptions have been added to our list.

Finally, one ex-lodge member writes: "Psalm 1:1 always came into my heart when I went to lodge. I am herewith sending you the amount of my dues for one year for THE BAPTIST EXAMINER."

And say: why wouldn't it be a good idea for each of you ex-lodge members to do likewise? You've served the Devil long enough with your money and influence. Now if you are through with the lodge, why don't you turn your money into a paper that stands against these spiritual monstrosities!

## Hell

(Continued from page one) stirred about the matter. Note that every atheist, and unbeliever has denied the reality of hell. Dr. T. T. Martin, a Southern evangelist, tells of an old drunkard hearing Bob Ingersoll deny the faith, especially the reality of the existence of hell. He became greatly enthusiastic about the preaching of the agnostic Ingersoll, for he knew his own lost estate and his probable destiny in eternity. Rising to his feet he shouted with fervor, "Make it mighty strong, Bob, a lot of us fellows are depending on you."

## Saddening Thought

I'll grant the thought of an eternal hell is terrible. I have never tried to think too deeply about the matter, because it sends my mind reeling in its utter inability to measure or fathom or appreciate the awfulness of endless separation from God in unending torment. When sane, earnest people think deeply of this awful place they realize they are dealing with something that is beyond them. Long meditation will drive reason from its throne. There is only one thing to do in the presence of this awful fact, and that is to flee to the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ and appreciate that the God who doeth all things well has found it necessary to have a place of this kind in order to maintain holiness and righteousness within His universe.

Well, of course, this is a vastly different attitude from that of many who deny the existence of hell because they cannot comprehend it. It may not meet with our ethical approval but it obviously met with the approval of Jesus, who said more about hell than any one else of Bible times. The Lord Jesus who spoke such tender words to the meek, to the weak and the weary; who showed overwhelming compassion to the sick and the dying; who healed the infirmities of the multitude and who wept over perishing cities; who said to people on many occasion "Thy sins be forgiven thee," was the same Jesus who talked continually of an everlasting hell of torment for the unrepentant and the wicked, saying, "These shall go away into everlasting torment but the righteous into life eternal."

Let us look at the term "hell" for a moment in order to get the Biblical interpretation of it. The word hell is used in the New Testament twelve times, and of the twelve Jesus used it eleven times. He preached more about hell than anyone else. If you want proof of this turn to the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:29-30). There He says, "If thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one

of thy members should perish and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell."

## Terrible Words

Then too in Mark 9:43-48: "And if thy hand offend thee cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than, having two hands, to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the

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(Continued from page three)  
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If your redemption was not finished at Calvary, it was not finished at all.

## Eld. Wm. C. Burket Missionary To Navajo Indians



WM. C. BURKET

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Write Brother Burket frequently. His address is:

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

## "Day" Observance

(Continued from page one)

Roman Catholicism, which is a debased form of Christianity, dotes on "days." They have all sorts of "saints' days," and even have "All Saints Day" just in case some saint has been overlooked. The Word of God does not warrant the observance of any of these days.

*The Devil Through Romanism Has Counterfeited Resurrection Day.* The first day of the week, called Sunday, was the day on which Christ revealed Himself as alive from the dead, and that day was "resurrection day" to the early Christians. The early churches knew nothing whatsoever about "Easter." Later, Roman Catholicism encountered the pagan religion of the Teutonic tribes of northern Europe. They had a goddess called "Eostre." She was the goddess of Spring and the sunrise. They had a big celebration in her honor — a night of drunkenness and revelry, climaxing with the dawn and the sunrise. (Here is the origin of the "sunrise" Easter service). Those people loved that all night drunk with its sex orgies, and they didn't mean to give it up. Catholicism took over this Easter celebration, seeking to give it a Christian significance. They made it to symbolize the resurrection of Christ. There was no definite agreement for quite awhile as to the exact day for the Easter celebration, and the Roman Catholic Church was split into two sections — eastern and western — before the Roman division settled on the date. Thus the Greek Orthodox Church today has a different Easter. Easter as observed by the Roman Catholic Church and all her copyists, including most Baptists, comes on the first Sunday following the first full moon following the Spring equinox. Satan by means of Easter cancels out 51 resurrection days a year, and substitutes a day named after a pagan goddess. Easter of course had nothing whatsoever to do with the resurrection.

*Good Friday Is Another Satanic Counterfeit.* Every year "Good Friday" services are held in various cities and Baptist preachers get up and sob around about the death of Christ on Good Friday, when they by their

LIKE SIN, PLAYING WITH SNAKES IS . . .

## PLAYING WITH DEATH

"Sin when it is finished . . . their worm dieth not, and the bringeth forth death" — James 1:15.

It happened in Durban, Natal Bay, beautiful Durban — where holidaymakers assemble in the thousands to enjoy sea bathing in the waters of the mighty Indian Ocean, or to find amusement in the many attractions with which the "Beach" is well catered for; or better still, to find that "there is society where none intrudes, by the deep sea, and music in its roar." No wonder the people of Durban are proud of their lovely city, this garden of "the Garden Colony," for where shall be found a more delightful setting than this Queen of the Indian Ocean?

Mr. Webb ran one of the side shows of the Beach. Night after night he gave an awesome exhibition of his snakes, allowing the venomous creatures to bite him in the sight of the assembled spectators. Truly he was playing with death, yet he seemed to bear a charmed life and to have succeeded in discovering a sure antidote. In fact, he regarded his snakes with affection. On being interviewed he said he loved those snakes, and that they loved him.

But some hitch occurred. After the tenth snake had bitten him he felt unwell, the deadly poison spread through his body, and it was not long before the papers announced that he had succumbed to the tenth snake bite.

How many, like Webb, are playing with death — with the infinitely more terrible snake of Sin. Ah, like him, they love their snakes; but even now those sins are working in them eternal death, and sooner or later there must be an awful awakening. Little snakes they may seem to be, but they have in them all the venom of hell; and unless an antidote be found they will harass the lost soul through the countless ages of eternity, "where

observance are calling Him a liar. Jesus said that He would be in the grave three days and three nights. He gave one type of this — the type of Jonah. (Matt. 19:39-40). Moreover, the statement in substance that Jesus would be in the grave three days and three nights is repeated ELEVEN TIMES in the New Testament. Good Friday gives the lie to every such statement. No one can figure three days and three nights between Friday afternoon and Sunday morning. (As a matter of fact Jesus was not raised Sunday morning but at sundown Saturday). He was crucified on Wednesday afternoon and was in the grave three full days and three full nights as He said He would be. For centuries Baptists refused to symbolize with Rome, but in our day they have flopped. The temptation to "run with a multitude" (to do evil) has proven to be overwhelming.



## Hell

(Continued from page 6)  
kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." These are very solemn, very serious words. They send chills up and down the spine. I suspect the reason that Jesus said more than anyone else about hell is that He alone could do it with satisfaction, because He was giving His very soul as an offering for sin in order to save the race of men from this awful place.

Now let us study the subject of hell. Is there a literal hell?

### I. WHAT IS HELL?

First, hell is a prison-house for

But thanks be to God, there is an antidote for sin; not that people may play with it and still be happy, but that they may be saved from its terrible eternal consequences and from its present power. That antidote is the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son. Has the reader tried it? If not, let him do so now; for it is written, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness . . . and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin" — (I John 1:7-9). Oh, the power of the precious Blood! How it neutralizes the fearful venom of sin. Praise be to Him who shed it! Well may we sing with heart and voice:

"There is power, power, wonder-working power  
In the precious blood of the Lamb."

Or again:

"Oh, precious blood! oh, glorious death!

By which the sinner lives:

When stung with sin, this blood applied

New life and healing gives.

The blood that purchased our release,

And purged our crimson stains,  
We challenge earth and hell to show

A sin it cannot cleanse."

"Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" — James 1:15. "But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" — I Corinthians 15:57.

"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up; that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" — St. John 3:14, 15.

lawless spirits. Prisons are not nice but prisons are necessary. Those who visit Sing Sing and other great prisons tell us that they shudder at the thought of being incarcerated in such a somber place. I should hate to think of anybody's going to prison, but I should also hate to have all of the inmates of prisons turned loose upon society; it would be hell upon earth. Men have discovered that it is necessary to confine people in order to preserve righteousness and peace in society.

Second, hell is a furnace for the eternal destruction of moral and spiritual refuse. The New Testament word often translated "hell" is "Gehenna." It is used eleven times in the New Testament. Gehenna was located in the valley of Hinnom, outside of the city of Jerusalem. There the refuse of the city was burned, and the fires flowed night and day. It was necessary for Jerusalem to dump out its refuse or there would have been a plague in the city. Every city must have its incinerator and obviously God must have one in His universe for our God is a consuming fire.

### II. WHERE IS HELL?

There are in reality two hells — a temporary and a permanent. In Old Testament times there was a place called "Hades," which Jesus said was in the heart of the earth. Both the righteous dead and the unrighteous dead were confined in Hades. However, the righteous dead were in conscious happiness while the unrighteous dead were in conscious torment, and between the two situations was "a great gulf fixed." The place of the righteous dead in Hades was called "Paradise"; the place of the unrighteous dead was called "Tartarus." Jesus illustrated that

with His story of the rich man and Lazarus: Lazarus died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom, a place of conscious happiness. The rich man went to hell and lifted up his eyes, being in torment. Jesus said to the thief on the cross, "This day shalt thou be with me in Paradise." Undoubtedly when Jesus' body died His soul went to the heart of the earth. Later He was to meet the soul of the Repentant Thief in Paradise.

Upon our Lord's ascension after His resurrection He changed Paradise from the heart of the earth into the heavenly presence of God, for it is written in Ephesians, "When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive" (or He led up a multitude of captives). However, it would seem that the place of unrepentant dead is still in the heart of the earth awaiting the second resurrection and the judgment of the Great White Throne. Dives, the rich man, suffers the torment of fire and asks that Lazarus might dip his finger in water and come and cool his tongue, for he was tormented in the flame. However, the final and eternal hell does not seem to be in existence today but will be created at the beginning of the Millennium, and the first occupants of that "lake of fire" will be the beast and the false prophet. Later Satan will be cast into it, and last of all the souls of those whose names are not written in the Book of Life shall be cast into this place of eternal torment.

### III. WHY IS HELL?

Hell exists because sin exists. Terrible as hell is, it is but a part of the inscrutable mystery of sin. The only way you can really look at hell is through Calvary. Remember that God's love stands vindicated there. "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His son to be the propitiation for our sins." Do not quarrel about hell and say that God would be a terrible monster to send people there. He sends no one to hell. People go there of their own volition. He was not a terrible monster when He permitted His Son to climb Calvary's hill and die there in darkness and agony and blood, crying out "My God! My God! why hast thou forsaken me?" and in the midst of His agony shouting, "I thirst," evidently tasting of hell itself in order that you and I might never taste of it!

### Attempted Rescue

Some years ago in Scotland a train piled over a precipice into a rushing stream and many people were killed. The bridge had been washed out by a flood. When the tremendousness of the tragedy was determined, many wanted to know where the watchman had been. It was learned later that the watchman had gone home temporarily and that his grown daughter had stood in his place. Why had she not gone and flagged the train? The approach to the bridge was through two deep canyons of solid rock; obviously no one could stand before that train and live. They labored under the impression that the girl had forsaken her post because of the danger and had allowed the train to pile over into the rushing stream in order to save her own life.

But later they found her mangled body far back on the track. She had done what she could to stop the train but the engineer had not seen her; he had run over her frail body and plunged the train on into destruction. When Divine Justice stands out in its own clear light and when God is manifested in the holiness of that justice no one will ever utter a derogatory word concerning the existence of hell or of the justice of anyone's being there, because Jesus Christ stood in the way, doing all in His power to save men from destruction. If anyone goes to that awful place it will be over the mangled and bleeding body of the crucified Son of God.

There is a legend of a lost soul who went back from hell

## Eld. Fred T. Halliman Missionary To New Guinea



FRED T. HALLIMAN

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

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c/o Calvary Baptist Church  
P.O. Box 910  
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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

to the place where he had lived all of his life. The words of Abraham to the rich man in Hades were ringing in his ears: "Son, remember." Memory going with him, he returns to his country home and in memory hears his father and mother praying and asking God to save his soul and to keep him forever. He visits the old country church and hears the congregation of simple, earnest folk singing the blessed old hymns "Rock of Ages Cleft for Me," and "There is a Fountain Filled with Blood Drawn from Immanuel's Veins." In memory he sees the old preacher pleading with every unsaved person in that congregation to give his heart to Jesus Christ and to flee from the wrath to come. He sees himself as he stands there, listening cynically or indifferently to the pleadings and the prayers of all. He hears the congregation as they sing:

"How firm a Foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word!  
What more can He say than to you He hath said,  
To you who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?"

This is too much for the lost sinner — with a wild shriek he returns to his prison house of hell, realizing he has received his just recompense, crying "Lost! Lost! I chose it and I am eternally lost!"

### IV. HOW MAY WE ESCAPE HELL?

All who are unsaved are headed for hell. Remember, it is not because of what we do but because of what we are that we land there. This plaintive question is often asked: "Will my small sin merit eternal punishment? I may have done a few things that are wrong but certainly not enough to earn eternal damnation!"

That question is as sensible as a man's saying, as he walks in front of a locomotive coming at sixty miles an hour, "Will my simply walking upon this railroad track merit the grinding destruction of that onrushing locomotive?" The man who steps over the ledge of a high building (Continued on page 8, column 5)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

DECEMBER 26, 1970

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# My Impressions . . .

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

### THANKFUL FOR THE REFRESHMENT

How refreshing it was to worship with those who refuse to recognize Arminians but rather give God His rightful place and put man down into his rightful place! Thank you Bro. Gilpin and Calvary Baptist Church for your faithfulness in teaching the truth as the Bible presents it. We are thankful God enabled us to attend the Conference this year.

Mr. and Mrs. James Redding  
Tucson, Arizona

### CAN HARDLY WAIT FOR NEXT YEAR

I think this is the best Bible Conference yet. The meals are good. The rooms are nice, too. I can hardly wait for next year's Conference. I hope next year's Conference will be just as good.

Debra Vincent,  
Riverdale, Md.

### CONFERENCE ABOVE HER EXPECTATIONS

My impressions of the Bible Conference are above any of my expectations! Wonderful accommodations for the entire fam-

ily, and great food, both kinds. There was great sound preaching, great singing and an altogether, close-knit atmosphere, that makes us sorrowful for not coming before and for not circling "Labor Day" weekends on our calendar. We wish to take this opportunity to thank our Mother Church (Calvary Baptist of Ashland) and to extend an early invitation to everyone for next year's Conference.

Pastor Thomas Southerland  
Louisville, Ky.

### HAD A SOUL FEAST AT THIS CONFERENCE

We are thankful the Lord has permitted us to attend another wonderful Bible Conference and to be with the wonderful people of Calvary Baptist Church. We have certainly had a feast for our souls. The wonderful fellowship we have had with the Lord's people has been great. We appreciate so much Calvary Baptist Church and Bro. and Sister Gilpin. Thank you for a wonderful time. The accommodations have been wonderful, too.

Mrs. Hugh D. Jobe,  
Gravette, Arkansas

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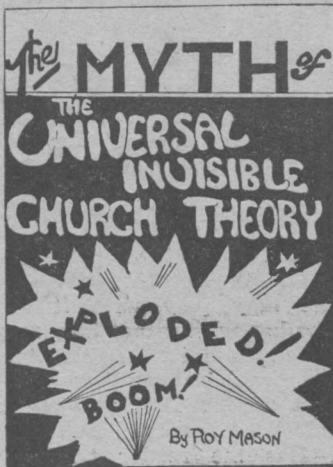
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### THANKFUL FOR GOOD PREACHING

We are very thankful for the good preaching of God's Word, and that there are so many people in the country that know the truth. We thank God for the truth and for all that stand for the truth.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Craft  
Wayne, W. Va.

### THANKS GOD FOR SUPPLYING PLACE FOR CONFERENCE

Thanks be to God for supplying our need of a place to hold this year's Bible Conference. Praise God for Calvary Baptist Church and her wonderful pastor. I know that God will bless them greatly. I was thrilled by the preaching of God's Word, since in our services, God was exalted instead of being pulled down to man's level and insulted.

Mrs. Nick Wools  
Indianapolis, Ind.

### HOPES THIS WON'T BE HER LAST CONFERENCE

This is my first Bible Conference and it has been a great blessing to me. Thanks to Bro. Gilpin and Calvary Baptist Church who made this all possible. I hope this will not be my last one. So God willing we will be back next Labor Day weekend.

Edith Hart,  
Akron, Ohio

### ENJOYED PRECIOUS DAYS AT CONFERENCE

I have sincerely enjoyed these precious days of the Calvary Baptist Conference, where the Bible has been preached. The hospitality of the Calvary Church and Bro. Gilpin, to the people that attend this Conference is very gracious.

Mrs. Gerald B. Price  
Bristol, Tenn.

### CONFERENCE NEXT THING TO HEAVEN

I do not possess a vocabulary to express in words my impression of this Conference. It must be the next thing to Heaven. The food was wonderful, both spiritual and physical. The whole counsel of God is preached here. Only in the power of God could this be done.

Leslie Middleton,  
Lexington, Ky.

### NOT TOO YOUNG TO RECEIVE A BLESSING

I am ten years old, but I am not too young to receive a blessing. I have received many blessings this year at the Conference. See you next year.

Lori Vincent,  
Riverdale, Md.

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## Wonderful Visit

(Continued from page one)  
questions that they asked.

Let me tell you just a little as to the history of this work. In some manner they began to get The Baptist Examiner and God used the message in it to teach them much concerning the Word of God. I had various letters and telephone conversations, particularly with Brother Shanks. When I was unable to visit them as he requested, I suggested to Brother Austin Fields that he spend a portion of a week with them. Feeling that it was a Macedonian call, he made the trip in the early part of August. Several of the group whom they had gathered together took off for parts unknown due to the scriptural teachings of Brother Fields — teachings that they had never heard before. Those that remained were strengthened by Brother Fields' visit to the extent that several of them attended our Labor Day weekend Bible Conference in Huntington. Those who were present may remember that on Monday morning — real early in the morning — at 6 o'clock, I baptized this group using the facilities of the Guyan-dotte Baptist Church for the baptizing.

Afterwards on Monday morning we took time out during our Conference to organize them as an Independent Baptist Church from Calvary Baptist Church of Ashland, so that when this group returned to Chicago they were a scripturally organized New Testament Baptist Church.

Brother Fields has visited them and corresponded with them all along and I cannot give too much praise nor credit to him for the work. Actually God has used his ministry there in a marvelous way, and we have merely confirmed and assisted. Yet I would say that to Brother Fields goes the human praise for this church.

This group does not have a pastor as yet. They have been using my tapes and the tapes of Brother Fields for their weekly services and are very cautiously looking for a sound preacher to lead them in the way of the Lord.

Connected with the work at present is: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Shanks, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Joiner, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. David Goldstein and Anita Peterson, Ben Fleck, Mark and Steven Shanks, and Jeff, Kevin, and Lynda Joiner. The last two groups are children of the Shanks and Joiner families.

As stated above these folk are located in the town of Oak Lawn which is a suburb of Chicago. It has a population of 60,000 and there is not a true church in all the area. I have never in all my life seen a more challenging situation. I only wish that I were a young man, able to knock on doors, and make multitudinous calls as I have in the past. If so, I would count it a joy to move there immediately and become the pastor.

This group has an excellent parsonage with hardwood floors and two baths. It is an unusually nice house and they can furnish this house and a living salary to some good man whom God may lead to be their pastor. I am praying that amongst our many readers that God will raise up someone who feels the urge of the Lord to go there to do what I consider a great work for the Lord. There is no doubt in my mind that if a good sound preacher were to go there and were to really work by way of visitation, that within a few years time he could have a remarkably large and orthodox church.

The nucleus for the church is there now. These folk are sound on church truth, the ordinances, the doctrines of grace and the second coming. What more could a good God-called preacher ask for than to be pastor of a church like this. It ought to be a challenge that would cause any preacher to do his very best for

## HERE'S WHY THE FAMILY ALTAR IS IMPORTANT

1. Because it will send you forth to the daily task with cheerful heart, stronger for the work, truer to duty and determined in whatever is done therein to glorify God.

2. Because it will give you strength to meet the discouragements, the disappointments, the unexpected adversities and sometimes the blighted hopes that may be your lot.

3. Because it will make you conscious throughout the day of the attending presence of the unseen, divine One, who will bring you through more than conqueror over every unholy thought or thing that rises up against you.

4. Because it will sweeten home life and enrich home relationship as nothing else can do.

5. Because it will resolve all the misunderstandings and relieve all the friction that sometimes intrudes into the sacred precincts of family life.

6. Because it will hold as nothing else the boys and girls when they have gone out from beneath the parental roof and so determine very largely the eternal salvation of your children.

7. Because it will exert a helpful, hallowed influence over those who may at any time be guests within the home.

the cause of Christ. It is certainly my prayer that God will raise up some such individual in their behalf.

I might say that Wednesday morning came all too soon when it was necessary for me to return home to take up my tasks here. Brother Shanks drove me back to the airport from whence I came on home to my work that was waiting for me. May God's blessings ever be upon this group and may God lead them gloriously in the days to come.



**Hell**

(Continued from page 7)

ing says, "I am stepping only six inches over the ledge." Does that merit the terrific and unspeakable death on the pavement below? Merely jumping off a liner in mid-ocean is not sufficiently evil to cause me to drown in darkness and alone.

What you do does not merit eternal punishment. But what you are, and what you continue to be in spite of the mercy of God and the pleadings of Jesus Christ and all of the eternal purposes of God's redemptive love, certainly merits eternal separation from God. Jesus wept sorrowfully when He said, "Ye will not come unto me that you might have life." "I go my way and where I go, ye cannot come." Jesus provided a way of escape and we do not take it. Then we must take that from which He endeavored to save us.

### You May Choose

Yes, there is a hell — a literal hell. It is a terrible place. It all but freezes the blood in our veins to think of it. But God prepared it for the devil and his angels and not for men. Yet men are still beings of moral choice and if they choose not the mercy of God then they must suffer His wrath and judgment. O that many who read this may say,

"Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,

And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,

O Lamb of God, I come! I come!"

## Slipping

(Continued from page one)

ical. Don't take the first drink; don't try the first smoke. Sin, in any form IS OUR WORST ENEMY.—Christian Victory