

# The Baptist Examiner

## Baptist Is Our Middle Name

*Paid Circulation In All States And In Many Foreign Countries*  
*"To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word*  
*it is because there is no light in them."*—Isaiah 8:20

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WHOLE NUMBER 1768

## An Encouraging Letter From New Guinea

FRED T. HALLIMAN  
 New Guinea Missionary

Dear friends:

Once again I greet you from New Guinea, in the name of our Lord. Trusting that this finds each of you enjoying the blessings of our mighty God. We are doing just fine over on this side of the world, having plenty to enjoy and much more than we deserve.

We are having near normal rainfall over all the island now, and the sweet-potato gardens and other food stuffs have started growing once again. In most areas however, it will be as much as five months before the people start realizing anything out of their gardens to eat. In the meantime, upwards of 150,000 people are having to get their daily handouts in rice and fish in order to survive.

The change in diet has brought its side effects to the people of this area. It is most likely that less than five percent of the people know anything at all about washing food and properly preparing it for cooking. Therefore when they get their rice they simply dump it into a sauce pan

or some sort of cooking pot and cook it. In many cases this rice has been exposed to rats and mice and their urine and excreta are not the least of the filth to be found in the rice.

The fish (the cheapest type of mackerel) is issued in 15 ounce cans, two cans per adult per week. To make this sort of stretch over the week a can will be opened and in many cases it will be only partially eaten. The unused portion is left in the tin with the lid pressed down again and set back in the corner of the house until the next day. Their refrigeration system has not been working since the last ice age, if indeed there was ever such a period, and in most cases by the time the fish is emptied out of the tin the next day to be eaten it is already in an advanced stage of decomposition, nevertheless it is eaten.

People by the scores come into the Mission Station for medical aid, about 50 percent of them with stomach ailments. There is a type of sore that develops among the people here when their intake gets low, commonly called the "Tropical Ulcer" and

this will get as large as the top of a cup and sometimes go right down to the bone. At least 75 percent of the people in this area already have those sores, mostly on their legs and arms. It will be a great relief to them as well as us when they can get back on their sweet potato diet.

On the eighth of this month we held a Pastors-Missionary Conference here on the Mission Sta-



FRED T. HALLIMAN

tion. Every area was well represented at this Conference. In all we had 20 preachers here including myself.

These Conferences are always refreshing and informative. We hold them once every two months. Some of the fellows have to walk for as much as two days to be here but no one ever complains about the distance they have to travel.

In this manner we are able to keep a fairly close check on any irregularities that might crop up before the situation gets out of hand. Nothing of this nature was reported from any of the preachers at this Conference but there were lots of reports of disturbances among the Baptist people from other denominations.

In one area that we work in which is saturated with Lutherans, the pastor reported that the Lutherans were causing all sorts of disturbances among his flock. One of their devices was to tell the Baptist people that all tithes and offerings should be used to start business projects for the people and if the Baptist people were not using their church money in this manner the preachers were stealing it.

In the Haiwi area where we have a small Mission Station, the Apostolics are on the rampage again and trying to convince the Baptist people in that area that because they don't take the Lord's Supper every Sunday, or at least much more often than they do, they are bound for hell. (Continued on page 7, column 1)

## A Local Baptist Church, The Habitation Of Our Lord God

(Preached at Calvary's 1965 Bible Conference)

By JOE SHELNUTT  
 Benton, Arkansas

*In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.* — Ephesians 2:21, 22.

The church is the household of God on the earth. It is the habitation of God through the Spirit.

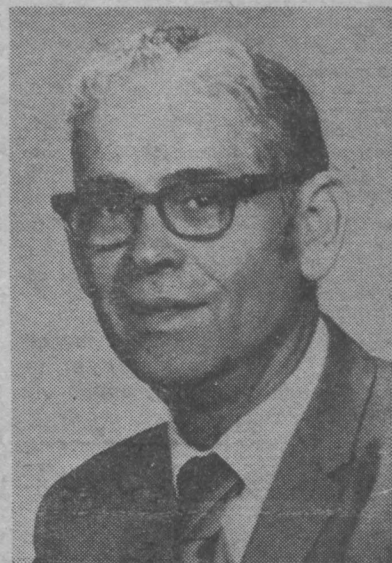
God has been progressively revealing His will from the Old Testament times to the present, that He would possess a place where He might place His Name and call it His own. The "lively stones" of the building of God make up the perfected building. The church is surely the great mystery of the ages. God had withheld the beauty of it until He was ready to reveal the glory that would come through it.

It is an institution in every sense, with organization, order, and a commission to accomplish. It is the place that is called by His Name. It is the Lord's church. Christ Jesus is the Head over it, the Author and Finisher of it. It was He who planned, described, and now directs in every phase of the work that is to be done in it.

The church had its anti-type in two previous buildings. The Tabernacle in the Wilderness, and the Temple built by Solomon. These two were glorious in their conception and construction. God designated and caused them to be constructed by men. When they were finished He caused them to be furnished with everything needed to carry out a proper worship service. Then He adorned them both with His Gracious Presence.

These buildings were only a type of the church of our Lord. Heb. 10:1.

God who is sovereign in all things has never had to revise or change any of His plans, neither can there be an element of surprise with Him. Acts 8:44-47. All things are ordained by Him.



ELD. JOE SHELNUTT

There was a peculiar occurrence at the first two buildings; when the Tabernacle and Temple were finished, the Lord filled them. A thick cloud covered or filled both. This cloud represents the Spirit of God within. Exodus 40:35-36; I Kings 8:10-11; Acts 2:1-4.

On the day of Pentecost we see all these types embodied, God comes to dwell in His church. It was the climax of His plans. The church was already in existence and was now ready for the Spirit (Continued on page 5, column 2)

## Will There Be Anybody In Heaven Besides Baptists?

By JOE WILSON  
 Tulsa, Oklahoma

*"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."* Acts 16:31.

The question that heads this article is one that is oft repeated, though it has been answered a thousand times. It is often charged against Baptists, that they answer this question in the negative. I mean, it is often so

a step beyond this point, and say that every truly saved person should join a sound, true Missionary Baptist Church. We make no bones about this. We make no apologies for it. We affirm dogmatically that Jesus Christ started a Missionary Baptist church — that He promised it perpetuity until He comes again — that it is the only true church — and that every believer should be a member of such a church, and should serve God faithfully as a member of, and under the authority of such a church. This is true because this is the only way one can properly obey God as to church membership. Membership in organizations started by men, calling themselves churches, will not discharge one's Biblical obligation to be a member of the Lord's church. One must be a member of a Missionary Baptist Church in order to serve God aright. Our Lord gave the commission to do His work in the world in this age, to His church. No other organization, no matter what it (Continued on page 5, column 5)



JOE WILSON

charged against strong, Bible-believing Baptists. Most so-called Baptists are not strong enough in setting forth Baptist truth, to ever give an occasion for this question to arise. But when one takes the stand on Bible Truth as set forth in The Baptist Examiner, then he is often charged with believing that "only Baptists are saved." Let us deal somewhat with this question at this time. It is, of course, a very important question. Much depends upon the true answer thereunto.

Now, every truly saved person should join a local visible church. There is no real room for question on this point. Those of us who believe the truth, will go

## What Position Should The Husband Fill In The Home?

By MILBURN COCKRELL  
 Mantachie, Mississippi

I would now like to call your attention to the position the husband should fill in the home. In doing this I shall not appeal to the concepts of marriage counselors, nor to the books of social science, but to "the law and the testimony."

The Scriptures teach that the husband is

### THE HEAD OF THE HOME.

Before the fall of man, husband and wife were co-rulers. But because of sin, woman was put in subjection to her husband. The Lord God said to Eve: "Thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee" (Gen. 3:16). This truth is further explained in I Tim. 2:11-14: "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve, and Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression." So woman was

made inferior and forbidden to usurp authority because she was first in the transgression. See also I Cor. 14:34.

As God is the head of Christ, and Christ is the head of man, even so man is the head of the two sexes. I Cor. 11:3 says: "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God." Here the Bible plainly



MILBURN COCKRELL

teaches that man has a superiority and headship in the home; therefore his wife must be subject to him. In Eph. 5:23 it is written: "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church." This metaphor, "the husband is the head of the wife," is taken from the head of the natural body. Now the natural body is the fountain of sense and motion. So this metaphorical expression suggests that man as the head of the home must govern his household and make all the important decisions.

When a marriage takes place, the wife takes the husband's name as her name, and they be- (Continued on page 7, column 2)

## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor John R. Gilpin

### "THE PRESIDENT IS COMING"

I don't want you to misconstrue my message in any wise at all, for I have nothing political to say in this message. I think all of you know I usually and generally vote a Democratic ticket. I'll say this, that this year I couldn't under any circumstance support the Democratic nominee. I believe, however, that Jesus Himself was a Democrat, because He didn't ride an elephant into the city, did He? Still, I couldn't vote Democratic in 1972.

Seriously, I don't want you to

misconstrue what I have to say. I was out of town all day Monday and knew nothing at all about the coming of President Nixon to Ashland until I came back in the printing shop just a little before five o'clock Monday afternoon. The first words that I heard when I came back was, "The President is coming!" I found out that in the meantime his advance man from Washington had been in town and had placed a tremendous order for printing that had to be delivered to them the next

morning. Everybody in the shop was planning to work all night Monday night in order to get it out. However, that expression that I first heard when I came into the shop stuck with me: "The President is coming!"

Of course you know that he came, and you could change the tense and say "The President came." But as I first heard it, it was, "The President is coming!" I thought to myself, "The Lord Jesus Christ is also coming." (Continued on page 2, column 1)



## The Baptist Examiner

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## "President Coming"

(Continued from page one)

That means far more to me than the coming of any President to this town. I am not saying that Ashland is not honored by the visit of the President. I am not saying that it wasn't an honor for this town to be his host for a few hours. But I know something that is vastly more important, and that is, Jesus Christ is coming.

### I

#### IT IS A FACT.

I thought the boys were joking me when I walked in the shop and they said, "The President is coming!" I thought surely they were just joking with me, but it was a fact, and he came. I saw him with my own eyes as he passed along the street. He waved to me — at least, I guess he did. I was standing in the crowd. So it is a fact.

Beloved, it is also a fact that the Lord Jesus Christ is coming. Jesus said:

"If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again." — John 14:3.

Beloved, He went, and He has to come back. His Word was, "If I go, I will come again." We have no doubt but that Jesus Christ is coming.

Notice some other Scriptures: "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall HE APPEAR THE SECOND TIME without sin unto salvation." — Heb. 9:28.

"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also WE LOOK FOR THE SAVIOUR, the Lord Jesus Christ." — Phil. 3:20.

When Jesus was leaving this world from Mount Olivet, the angels came down and stood beside those disciples as they gazed up into heaven, and the angels said unto them:

"Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, SHALL SO COME in like manner as ye have

seen him go into heaven." — Acts 1:11.

Listen again:

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And HE SHALL SEND JESUS CHRIST, which before was preached unto you." — Acts 3:19,20.

Here are five verses of Scripture that I have read to you, and all five of them tell us the same truth that Jesus Christ is coming.

When I learned for sure that the boys were not joking with me, when I saw the number of big orders that we had to produce in the shop on Monday night and realized that it was a fact that the President was coming, I then thought about this. The Word of God has given us no reason to doubt. The Word of God has very positively, pointedly, and plainly told us that Jesus Christ is coming. I say it is a fact.

### II

#### THE IMPORTANCE.

I expect the most important visitor that Ashland has had so far as this year is concerned was President Nixon on his visit last Thursday night. I wouldn't be a bit surprised but what his visit attracted more attention than the visit of any man who ever came to Ashland. I think of the fact of its importance. To me, I would not say it was a bit of importance. So far as you are concerned, maybe it was of no importance to you. However, to his campaign, it was an important visit. To the interest of other politicians, it was an important visit.

May I remind you that the coming of Jesus Christ is a most important thing. In the 260 chapters of the New Testament, we are told 318 times that Jesus Christ is coming. In other words, one out of every 25 verses in the New Testament tells us of the return of Jesus Christ to this world. I say, if the coming of President Nixon to Ashland was of importance, how much more important is the return of Jesus Christ to this world!

### III

#### CONTRASTS.

There is a decided contrast between the coming of Mr. Nixon and the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mr. Nixon represents an earthly kingdom, whereas Jesus represents a heavenly one.

Mr. Nixon's kingdom is a temporal one. At best, it will only last for four more years, whereas the kingdom of Jesus Christ is an eternal one that will last forever.

Mr. Nixon's appeal so far as his kingdom is concerned is a fleshly appeal, whereas the appeal of Jesus Christ is spiritual, entirely.

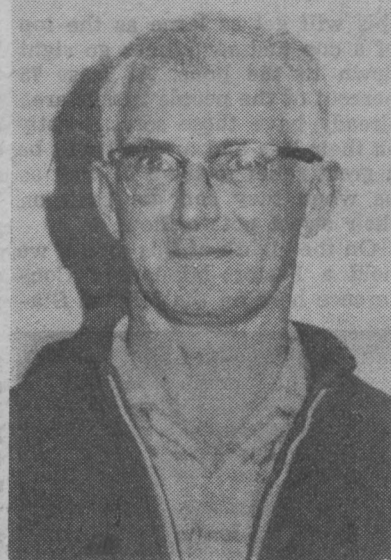
Mr. Nixon came about 7:30 p.m. and was back in Washington in time to go to bed. He came and he left. In contrast, the Lord Jesus Christ is coming to stay. When Jesus Christ comes to set up a kingdom, is going to live and reign from the city of Jerusalem. He is going to stay here within this world.

Mr. Nixon came with much noise. I don't mean he was noisy. In fact, I would rather say from

## Long-Time Friend And Lover Of Truth Departs This Life

On December 9, one of our long time and dearest friends, Soley Woodson Rule, departed this life to be with his Lord and it is with the deepest of regret that we chronicle his passing.

Although Brother Rule had never known what it was to be sick — having been an unusually healthy man all his life — about 4:00 o'clock in the morning he



WOODSON RULE

suffered a massive heart attack which brought on his death by 6:00 o'clock that evening.

Brother Rule was not only a devoted Christian but a stalwart Baptist. He was a member of the Baptist Church of Gallagher, W. Va., pastored by Bro. Eddy Sechrist. He and his family have been unusual friends and helpers to the Truth through the years.

It is his son Jon who has conducted services for Calvary Baptist Church for the past three consecutive years during the Thanksgiving season. The daughter, Judy, is a devoted member of our church.

We extend to Sister Rule who lives in Belva (near Charleston), West Virginia, and to her family our deepest sympathy. We pray God's richest blessings upon them in every respect. Truly the memory of Woodson Rule and his fidelity to Christ and to the Word of God will linger long in our minds and hearts.

the way that he rode along in that limousine and waved to everybody along the street that there was no noise at all as far as he was concerned. There was plenty of noise from the standpoint of others. Automobile sirens and people shouting, "Here he comes." There was a lot of noise attached to his coming. The Lord Jesus Christ is going to come silently as a thief in the night.

Mr. Nixon came seeking position, but the Lord Jesus Christ is going to come with His position already guaranteed; for when He comes, He is coming as King. Mr. Nixon was seeking to be president for four more years, but when Jesus comes, He is going to come to reign forever as King.

When Mr. Nixon came, there was not a single dead person in the cemetery here in Ashland that was raised to life. I took time out and drove over to one of the cemeteries the next day. I did not see a single grave opened up. There wasn't a single dead person that was raised as a result of Mr. Nixon's visit to Ashland. When the Lord Jesus Christ comes, all the dead in Christ, the saints of Christ, are going to rise. We read:

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the DEAD IN CHRIST SHALL RISE FIRST."

So far as I know, there wasn't

a single living believer that was transformed or changed to look like the Lord Jesus, or even like Mr. Nixon, as a result of Mr. Nixon's appearance here in Ashland. But when the Lord Jesus Christ comes, all living believers are going to be transformed. Listen:

"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be FASHIONED LIKE UNTO HIS GLORIOUS BODY, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." — Phil. 3:21.

Beloved, when the Saviour comes, He is going to change our vile body. What a contrast! As I say, Mr. Nixon came, he smiled and he waved in a very amiable manner. He met the public, but no one was transformed as a result of his coming. When Jesus comes, every living believer is going to be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. All the wrinkles, the marks, the scars, and the blemishes in these old bodies are going to be removed. We are going to be changed to look like the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

When Mr. Nixon came, no one received a crown. I guess the nearest to a crown for anyone was the little girl who carried a sign in the gymnasium which said:

"Roses are red, violets are blue; If you'll give me a kiss, I'll vote for you."

When Mr. Nixon saw that sign, he called her up on the rostrum and inquired first if she were 18 years old so she could live up to her part of the agreement and vote for him; then he gave her a kiss. I imagine that was the nearest to a crown that was handed out. I say, no one received a crown. But when the Lord Jesus Christ comes, listen to what is going to happen:

"And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, YE SHALL RECEIVE A CROWN OF GLORY that fadeth not away." — I Pet. 5:4.

I am looking forward to that day. I am looking forward to that time when the Lord appears and when He is going to hand out some crowns. Some of these days, we are going to take those crowns and we are going to lay them down at the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I might say that so far as I was able to ascertain from conversations, the coming of Mr. Nixon didn't bring any particular joy among the Jews. Of course, if Mr. Nixon or any of his men who came as an advance group had gone to a Jewish store and purchased anything, that would have brought joy to the Jew. I am satisfied that nothing would have brought more joy to them. Generally speaking, Mr. Nixon's coming didn't bring any particular joy to the Jews, but the coming of Jesus Christ is going to bring much joy. Listen:

"And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, WE WILL BE

GLAD and rejoice in his salvation." — Isa. 25:9.

Beloved, when Jesus comes, the Jews are going to be made glad. The majority of them do not receive Jesus today. The majority of them have no use for Jesus today, but when He comes, they are going to receive Him. There is going to be joy — real joy — among the Jews.

When Mr. Nixon came, not a single Jew was re-gathered out of Ashland back to Palestine. In contrast, when Jesus comes, the Jews are going to be re-gathered from all the nations of the world. Listen:

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth." — Isa. 11:11,12.

When Jesus comes, every Jew in this world is going to be re-gathered to Palestine. You say, "Brother Gilpin, do you really believe that?" Yes, I do. I think that all the Jewish stores in Ashland will change hands. All the Jews in this town will leave immediately for Palestine. Jesus is going to re-gather the Jews unto Palestine.

As I say, when Mr. Nixon came, he didn't re-gather any Jews, but when Jesus comes, such is going to take place. Listen again:

"Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame. At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the Lord." — Zeph. 3:19,20.

I might say also that not a Jew was exalted as a result of Mr. Nixon's coming to Ashland. I don't know of a single Jew that got any exaltation out of his coming. When Jesus comes, listen to what is going to take place:

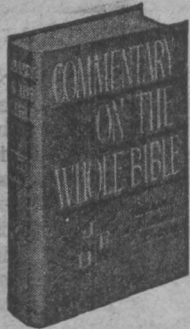
"Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders. And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their faces toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the Lord: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me." — Isa. 49:22,23.

Talk about a prophecy as to the joy and exaltation that is going to come to the Jew when Jesus comes, this is one. Kings and queens shall vie with one another (Continued on page 3, column 1)

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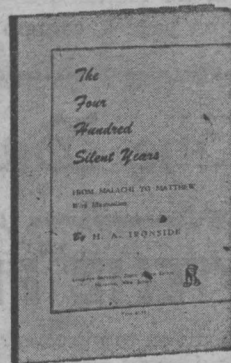
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## "President Coming"

(Continued from Page Two)

for the privilege of being a nursing mother or a nursing father. Rich people shall do all that is within their power to serve the Jew in that day for he will be so highly exalted. The Word of God says that they will let the wealthy people of this world even lick up the dust where the Jew's foot has been because of the exaltation that comes to the Jew in that day. Beloved, I say, when Jesus comes, the Jews are going to be exalted.

Again, when Mr. Nixon came, there wasn't a single Jew that went out the next day and began preaching. Generally speaking, the Jews are not much for preaching. I remember one day when a Jewish friend of mine, who was a convert from Judaism, came to Ashland and went to a Jewish merchant here in town. A few days later, when I was in the store, this Jewish merchant was telling me about his visit. He said, "Nothing to him! He is just in it for the money." I said, "You know that is not so. If there was any money in it, you would be in it, too. You would quit this business and start preaching."

Beloved, some of these days, the Jews are going to be preaching. As I say, they don't go in much for preaching now, but some day they are going to be preachers all over the world. We read:

"And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and THEY SHALL DECLARE MY GLORY among the Gentiles."—Isa. 66:19.

Won't it be something when a Jew forgets to sell clothing? Won't it be something when that day comes that a Jew will be doing something else beside standing in front of his store and

saying, "Come in. Come in." Won't it be something when that day comes? Beloved, that day is coming when Isaac and Jacob and Rebecca and Sarah all over the world are going to declare the glory of God among the Gentiles. They are going to be the greatest missionaries in this world among the Gentile nations of the world.

When Mr. Nixon came, no one mourned. I think it was a time of a great deal of joy. As I stood on the street and waited for his coming, it seemed to me like everybody was happy. As he went by, he was smiling, and Pat was smiling, and everybody waved to them. I am satisfied that there wasn't a single person there that was mourning.

When Jesus comes, there is going to be some mourning. Listen: "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and glory."—Mt. 24:30.

Beloved, when He comes, those that don't know Him are going to be in a mournful position.

Notice another Scripture which tells us the same truth:

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

The kindreds of the earth, the unsaved of the earth, are going to wail in unison when Jesus Christ comes again. That didn't happen when Mr. Nixon was here, but it is going to happen when Jesus comes.

When Mr. Nixon came, no kingdom was set up. As a result of his coming, I am sure he hopes to set up a kingdom for the next four years. I am satisfied that that is his desire, but he didn't set up a kingdom when he came the other night.

When Jesus comes, He is going to set up a kingdom. We read:

"And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and HIS DOMINION SHALL BE FROM SEA EVEN TO SEA, and from the river even to the ends of the earth."—Zech. 9:10.

"The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."—Rev. 11:15.

Beloved, when Mr. Nixon came, no kingdom was set up, but when Jesus Christ comes, He is going to set up His kingdom.

Again, when Mr. Nixon came, the Devil wasn't bound. I think he was just as much here on Friday morning as he was on Thursday morning and Thursday night (the time the Nixons were here). I am satisfied that he is here today. I am satisfied that the Devil hasn't been bound in any wise at all, yet when the Lord Jesus comes, when the Son of God comes back to this world, the Devil is going to be bound. 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. 20:1-3,10.

Beloved, when Mr. Nixon came, the Devil wasn't bound, but when Jesus Christ comes back, the Devil is going to be shut up for a thousand years. Then he is going to have a little liberty for a short season, but later he is go-

ing to be cast into Hell, from which he shall never escape, and where he shall be tormented day and night, forever and ever.

When Mr. Nixon came, the earth wasn't changed one particle. It is rather interesting to me to notice, though that when Jesus comes back, this old earth is going to undergo lots of changes. We read:

"Until the spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the WILDERNESS BE A FRUITFUL FIELD, and the FRUITFUL FIELD BE COUNTED FOR A FOREST."—Isa. 32:15.

What is a fruitful field now, will be just like a forest, then. What is a barren desert or a wilderness now, will be a fruitful field then when Jesus comes.

Notice some other Scriptures: "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose."—Isa. 35:1.

"The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord."—Isa. 65:25.

Beloved, when Jesus comes, this earth is going to be changed. Even the nature of the wild beasts is going to be changed. Even their nature is going to be taken from them when Jesus comes again.

Also, when Mr. Nixon came, nobody was punished. I never even heard of anybody getting arrested. I never heard of anybody running into any particular altercation with the law. But when Jesus comes, there will be some punishment handed out. Listen:

"And then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord SHALL CONSUME WITH THE SPIRIT OF HIS MOUTH, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming."—II Thess. 2:8.

"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire TAKING VENGEANCE ON THEM THAT KNOW NOT GOD, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."—II Thess. 1:7-9.

I say, beloved, when Mr. Nixon came, no one was punished, but when Jesus comes, all the rebels of this world are going to be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of His power.

I could go on forever, it seems to me, in contrasting the visit of Mr. Nixon and the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. I even started to call the hospital and ask them if the women that gave birth in the hospital on Friday and Saturday were attended with any pain. When Jesus comes, women who give birth to children will be without pain.

I even looked through the obituaries. I always read them every day. In reading the obituaries the last two days, I noticed that people died. Babies died. When Jesus comes, a baby is going to live to be a hundred years old.

What a contrast between the coming of Mr. Nixon and the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ!

There was a lot of excitement here in this town. I confess that I was somewhat excited myself when I got back to the printing shop Monday afternoon and it finally dawned on me that we had been selected to produce the printing for them and that the boys planned to work all night, which they did. I was excited when I stood along side the road to watch Mr. Nixon as he drove by. Yes, there was a lot of excitement. Everybody was excited over the coming of the President.

Beloved, I know something that is going to be more exciting than the coming of the President. I am talking about the coming of the King of kings, the Lord Jesus Christ. Talk about excitement. Here is an automobile being driven by a saved man at the wheel, and Jesus comes. That saved man will go up in the air and that automobile will careen over

into the ditch. Here is a Christian engineer on a train that is taken when Jesus comes and that engine plows into the terminal and wrecks. Hundreds of people are killed. An airplane pilot that is saved goes up with Jesus and that airplane crashes. Don't tell me it won't be a time of excitement.

A doctor may be in the midst of an operation in the hospital and you are just about ready to have your appendix taken out and the doctor is taken. You are left there on the table. If I were unsaved, I wouldn't go to the hospital for an operation, if it is a Christian man doing the operating. If you are saved, it wouldn't make any difference, for you would go up too, but if you are unsaved, you had better be mighty careful and get an unsaved man to operate on you so he will stay there and finish the job. When the time comes to open you, he may not open you with prayer, but he'll at least be there to close you up after the Lord Jesus Christ comes. I tell you, it is going to be a time of excitement.

There will be plenty of preachers left. I dare say that on Sunday after Jesus comes that services will go on just about the same. Most of the preachers will have a hard time explaining why so many people have disappeared. They may have a hard time explaining what has happened, but nevertheless, services will go on, on Sunday, just the same. You need not doubt but that there will be plenty of unsaved preachers around to carry on services on the Sunday following the return of Jesus Christ. It is going to be a time, I say, of great excitement.

The coming of Mr. Nixon involved much preparation. They even shipped his own private limousine all the way from Washington here. They went out in the country and picked flowers so they could present Pat with a pure Kentucky bouquet from the hills of Greenup County. In one night's time, we did almost 100,000 impressions so far as printing was concerned advertising his coming. Yes, lots of preparation was made. The mayor, the politicians, the businessmen and everybody was enthused in preparing for his coming.

I say to you, beloved, what you need is to prepare for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Above all things, you need to prepare for the coming of the Son of God. He is coming, and it is going to be a far bigger event. The rapture is the greatest thing in this world that is in store for the child of God. You need to prepare for His coming.

Wouldn't it be something if Jesus Christ were to come tonight and you weren't ready? Wouldn't it be a terrible thing if the Son of God were to make His appearance before morning and you weren't ready? Your mother and father may be taken and you left behind. Tomorrow morning, you may wake up and wonder, "Why didn't Mom call me for breakfast?" You get up and look through the house trying to find out why she didn't get your breakfast and you can't find her. You can't find Dad. They are gone. Where are they? Oh, I say to you, you need to make preparation. The Lord Jesus is coming. May God help you to trust Him as your Saviour and be ready and prepared when Jesus comes again.

Yes, "The President is coming!" The President came. Jesus Christ is coming. Are you ready for His coming? May the Lord help you to make preparations for His coming. The only way you can be prepared is by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour. The Philippian jailer cried out in the nighttime, "What must I do to be saved?" Paul said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." May God help you to believe on Him and be saved!

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# The Baptist Examiner

## FORUM

"Please explain fully Mark 16:16. Is it really a part of the Bible? Does it actually teach that one must be baptized to be saved?"

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We have here a verse of Scripture that has caused a lot of people to be concerned. By looking at this verse and Acts 2:38 they have become convinced that baptism is essential to salvation. If the Bible were not so emphatic in teaching the fact that a person is not saved by his own works I could understand why this is true.

When we interpret a portion of God's Word it must be kept in conjunction with the other teachings. A general statement of one verse cannot go beyond the limitations of another.

Let us notice the teachings of the Bible relative to salvation. "For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." (Eph. 2:8,9). "But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." (Titus 3:4-7). We could show Scripture after Scripture that lets us know that salvation is by faith or through belief in Jesus Christ as our Saviour. The epistle to the church at Thessalonica explains this very clearly. "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: whereunto He called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." (II Thess. 2:13,14).

Paul shows that baptism is not important as far as salvation is concerned because of what he said. "Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; lest any should say that I baptized in mine own name. And I baptized also the household of Stephanas; besides, I know not whether I baptized any other. For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel . . ." (I Cor. 1:13-17). Philip showed that baptism came after salvation by what he said. "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same Scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, 'If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.'" (Acts 8:35,37).

Peter shows that baptism comes because of the remission of sins. "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for (because of) the remission of sins, and ye shall re-

ceive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38).

(Note: If any one objects to the words "because of" being inserted in to explain the word "for" let him look at Luke 5:14 — the same Greek word is used here. ". . . Go, and shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded . . ." "For" must mean "because of" because verse 13 tells us the leprosy had already departed from him. So we see the word "because of" in Acts 2:38 because remission of sins is true when faith enters in).

Now let us look at Mark 16:16. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believed not shall be damned." We must realize that this verse is the same account as Matthew has in Chapter 29, verse 19. "Go ye therefore, and teach (make disciples of) all nations, baptizing them (the disciples) in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." You will notice that Mark is showing the fact that belief is the primary importance in this verse because he points out that the unbeliever (not the unbaptized) will be damned.

Nobody, leastways not sound Baptists, denies the importance of baptism. Our Lord thought it important enough to go into the river and be immersed. (Note: He did not need to be saved and yet He was baptized. Why? Because He wanted to show us how important it is). We should show our obedience to Him by following Him in the waters of baptism. Mark is stressing this. A person who loves the Lord will be obedient to Him in this respect. I question a person who can but who will not be baptized. He may be saved but he will not be blessed and will not receive any rewards.

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COOK

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If Mark 16:16 means that baptism is essential to salvation we should tear a lot of other verses out of our Bible, and Jesus Christ should have to stand before the judgment seat of that penitent thief and give an account to him for His having lied to him in Lk. 23:43. For instance, John 3:16 says, "Whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Verse 36 says, "He that believeth on the Son (hath) everlasting life." And John 5:24 says, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life." There is not enough water in all three of these verses in which to baptize a gnat. So if baptism is essential to salvation, these verses are not only false, they are misleading and dangerous.

The penitent thief had no way of being baptized. Nothing was said to him about baptism. But Christ gave him what we would call today a positive guarantee that he would be with Him in Paradise that very day. For any one to claim that our Lord was asking a question in Lk. 23:43 he must either show contempt for that verse, or else show his ignorance of it.

Three hundred and sixty-one years ago when our authorized version of the Bible was translated the English people would

say "Wilt thou" for "you will," or they would say "Shalt thou" for "you shall." Anyone who has studied Chaucer's works in high school or college knows what a great change has taken place in our language since the fourteenth century. I sang with the glee club in college, and we were taught to sing the oldest song written in our language. It was written about 1215 A.D., and though we were college men this song had to be translated for us before we could know what we were singing. Our word "prevent" means to hinder, or to keep something from taking place today. But when that word was used in I Thess. 4:17 it meant to precede, or to go before. I say all this to try to show the fallacy of trying to make a question out of Lk. 23:43 instead of a positive statement, or promise. Every other translation that I know anything about, including my Catholic version, makes this verse a positive promise.

As to the second part of our question, I'll just play it safe and say I do not know. Surely no one will argue with me on that point. The two oldest manuscripts, the Sinaitic and the Vatican end with verse eight. Some translators also stop with that verse. Others put verses 9-20 in parenthesis. And still others make no distinction here in any way. All this proves to me that no one can be too sure as to whether verses 9-20 are actually a part of the Bible or not. However, I would hate to know that my theological doctrines were built upon these verses.

ROY  
MASON

RADIO MINISTER  
BAPTIST PREACHER  
Arlington, Florida



It is admitted and taught both by Modernists and Conservatives that the passage from verse nine on to the close is not found in the two oldest manuscripts of the New Testament. Other manuscripts have different endings. I remember to have seen and read several different endings to this gospel. With this situation existing, I do not know which ending is correct. The Holy Roller and the Campbellites don't want any ending but this one given in the King James, for they really "go to town" with this passage.

But the questioner wants an explanation of verse 16, which says, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned." The Campbellite declares that this proves that one must be bap-

tized in order to be saved, but just what does this verse say? It says that a person who believes and is baptized shall be saved. I believe that, don't you? If the verse said, "He that believeth and is baptized and takes a bath every week, and reads the daily newspaper, and kisses his wife before going to work, shall be saved," I would believe it. But — what is it that actually brings salvation? It is BELIEF. For it goes on to say, "He that believeth not shall be damned." (Condemned is the better translation). What is it that results in damnation? Is it lack of baptism? No, it is lack of belief! When it comes to stating what it is that results in condemnation, the writer does not mention both baptism and belief. He mentions only "believeth not."

AUSTIN  
FIELDS

PASTOR,  
ARABIA BAPTIST  
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Yes, Mark 16:16 is a part of the Bible and is as important as any other verse. Those who believe in regeneration through baptism have argued that this verse substantiates their theory, but the truth of the matter is that this is a Baptist text, and by that statement I mean that only true Baptists interpret it in the light in which it was given.

To explain this verse, we must first determine to whom it was spoken. Upon examination of verses 14 and 15, we learn that it was addressed to the eleven disciples, who at that time constituted the First Baptist Church. After commissioning her (church) to preach the Gospel, He (Jesus) then reveals whom she should baptize; namely, those who believe the gospel, and He also instructs her (His church) as to the purpose of baptizing those who believe, which purpose was for their (believers of the Gospel) salvation.

Brethren, I do not believe that anyone can be saved without being baptized by a true Baptist church. I am not having reference to regeneration, for that is the Spirit. What I am referring to is the life's work of the believer. It is my firm conviction that through the preaching of the Gospel by the true church (Baptist) that those whom the Holy Spirit has resurrected from a state of spiritual death (total depravity) are baptized to manifest their belief that the Gospel will result in the salvation of their life's work. May I emphasize the fact that it is the gospel which

is used by the church to bring the regenerated ones to baptism and the saving of their life's work. Until one is regenerated, they are not capable of hearing the gospel.

Our Lord began His earthly ministry by seeking out the Baptist to be baptized. In so doing, He set the example for His children to do likewise. Thus, we Baptists were baptized not to make us the children of God, rather for the same purpose that Jesus was baptized: for manifestation that we are Sons of God. We start our earthly labours for Him in order that our life's work shall be rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ, and without belief of the gospel and baptism, one has not begun their labour for the Son of God. There are no rewards without it (baptism) or saving of one's life's work without these ingredients.

"And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it"—Matt. 10:38-39.

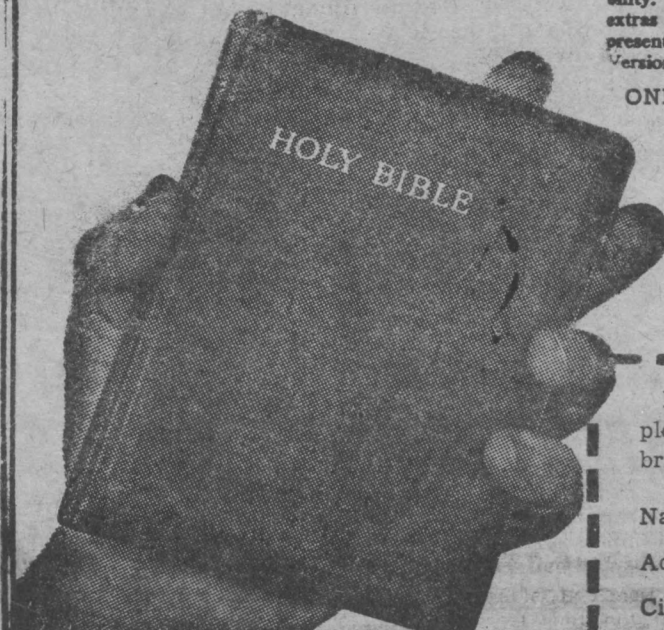
Again may I remind you that these verses are not addressed to the unregenerate for their ears are not capable for receiving spiritual instructions. Read John 8:47. Rather, they are given as exhortations to those who have ears to hear with — instructing them that if they follow not the Head of the church (Jesus) they shall lose their lives. This could not, and does not, refer to the divine life which each regenerated person has, rather it is to his works. Thus, one could be saved as to deliverance from the penalty of sin (Lake of Fire), but his works are lost because of unfaithfulness in not taking up his cross and following Jesus.

"For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works"—Matt. 16:25-27.

The Gospel (Good News) is given to the Lord's church for the purpose of saving the works of His children who hear it, and who are baptized as an outward profession — indicating an inward consecration of life and body (living sacrifice) to Jesus. Therefore, he that believeth the gospel and is baptized to manifest that he is no longer following the evil doctrines of the flesh shall find his labours rewarded and his life's work saved at the Judgment Seat of Christ. The Apostle Peter taught the same fact in I Pet. 3:21:

"The like figure whereunto ev-

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# ADAM'S RIB

WRITTEN BY A WOMAN  
AND FOR WOMEN

## "GIVING OUR ALL"

There seems to be much controversy over the subject of giving in the Lord's Churches, today. Some say we should give a tithe. Others say we should give as we are able, and if it is less than a tithe that's too bad. And still others say we should give "all." It is true that we are told to give according as the Lord has prospered us. That is proportionately. (I Cor. 16:2). Shall our portion be less than 10 percent? If we desire to be absolutely Scriptural in giving, then we need to see what portion the Word tells us to give.

We find there are only 3 measures of giving shown forth in the New Testament.

There is the 10 percent of Matt. 23:23. Jesus said they should INDEED pay their tithe.

Second example is the 50 percent of Zacchaeus. After he was saved he said, "Behold, Lord, the HALF of my goods I give to the poor..." (Luke 19:8). The third example of proportionate giving is the widow who gave 100 percent.

"For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even ALL her living" (Mark 12:44). There is another woman in the Scriptures who is a good example of giving. She is Mary, the mother of John Mark.

Mary, the mother of Mark, was like the widow who gave all. Since no husband is mentioned, she, too, was probably a widow. She seems to have been wealthy as she had a large house (big enough to hold church services in) and servants. It was no small thing to use your home for a meeting place for the Lord's church. Herod was trying to impress the people, and so persecuted the Christians. James had been killed, and Peter put in jail. No wonder the girl, Rhoda, ran back for permission to open the door when Peter knocked. To be a Christian and to shelter Christians in your home in defiance to Herod took a lot of the grace of God. Yes, Mary knew how to give.

Her brother, Barnabas, was a good example to her in giving 100 percent. He owned some land and sold it and gave the money to the church and then spent his life serving his Saviour.

Mary not only gave of herself,

and her home, but she gave her it lacked permanency. Solomon built a more permanent type of building, but it did not stand. Christ builds the church and its design is to last throughout all ages. Eph. 3:21; Matt. 16:18.

The material out of which the church is built was chosen from before the foundation of the world. They are called, justified, sanctified and glorified by her "Wise Master-Builder," Christ Jesus. The church is being built for the Lord's pleasure and it reflects Him in many ways. God lives there, for He is in His people. He rules by His laws, and walks in the midst of His children. God also talks through the church, for it is "the pillar and ground of truth." His purpose seems to be that He might fellowship with His people on the earth and give

IF YOU ADMIRE,  
OR IF YOU DESPISE—

## BILLY GRAHAM

You Need To Read  
THE  
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DILEMMA  
85c

them a foretaste of heavenly things here. Eph. 2:6.

Jesus is the LIGHT to His church. It is through her that the message of salvation shines the brightest. The message through them is declared throughout the whole earth. As the shekinah did shine in the Tabernacle, so the full light, Christ, shines in His church.

The household of God is the church here on this earth. We might picture in our minds, a family on this earth. It takes a faithful husband and a loving wife to make a complete and happy household. Further try to think of Christ as the husband and the church as the wife. The church is not as yet married to Christ but she is now espoused to Him. She is as an espoused virgin unto him. He is coming for her when He has finished all the work that is to be done in heaven. And she must be ready and adorned for Him at His coming. Eph. 5:23-27.

How does a man go about choosing a wife? Is it not necessary that He choose one? Christ has already chosen His Bride and no other can possibly take her place! Many other organizations would like to be the bride of Christ but he is very particular in His choice. No other organization on this earth has the privilege or the right, to call itself a church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Only one will do and it has to be a Baptist Church, for that is the One that He established. All others will not be able to compete with her. Eph. 1:4.

The bride is already chosen and is now in a state of preparation. There will have to be a time of processing or refining and polishing. This is the "adorning period." She is now getting ready for his appearance. She must be without spot or blemish or any such thing. Jesus loves her now as if she were already his wife. She shall be!

The Lord's church is in the world but she is to be separate from the world, and she is not self-sufficient in her welfare growth. Jesus must now sustain as well as nourish and cherish her. This is done at every moment. He watches over her with the watchcare of love. Eph. 5:29.

The church is an institution and in order to operate in an orderly fashion, must have the presence of the Holy Spirit. He cannot indwell a false bride, He is in the Lord's church. No message

can be effectual unless He empowers that message. It cannot be discerned by pure intellectualism. It is the preaching of the gospel that calls out God's elect. The church preaches it through the called of God. It is the church that is the depository of truth, with a commission and Holy Spirit power to draw men unto Christ.

The church had its preparation for the Lord in Luke 1:17. The preparation meant calling them to God by repentance toward Him and faith in the coming Messiah. It was from this material that had been drawn by John the Baptist, that the Lord began His church. God called them by the gospel and ordained them to preach the message of life. John 15:16.

Christ is the head of His house. Just as a good husband will be head over his household, so will Christ rule over His own. It is He who exercises disciplinary measures in His house thereby having dominion over it. God has clearly set forth the proper manner of discipline for His house. It is by these measures that the house is kept clean. We must exercise every spiritual grace that God reveals to us.

The ordinances were left to His church and she alone has the authority to administer them. No other organization on this earth has that authority! Since there are only two ordinances — baptism and the Lord's Supper — it is not difficult to obey them if the church is faithful in following her "Rule Book," the Bible. There are two ways of doing these because the Lord has specifically set forth in the Bible, the manner of observance of the Ordinances. Many organizations try to imitate these, but if we observe carefully, they either fail to follow the order or the motive of the Scriptures in their imitation. They are really the harlot daughters of Rome and therefore they are impure in their very makeup. Imagine the beautiful bride of Christ even thinking of sharing her place with these harlots!

The people who are in the Lord's church are called a "peculiar people," and the Lord dwells with them now in a peculiar manner. The church is a great mystery to the world. "But I speak of Christ and the church." Eph. 5:32.

As a faithful minister of the gospel at every marriage ceremony we always try to impress upon the groom and bride their duties to one another, if they are going to have a happy and successful marriage. In like manner, the Lord impresses upon us the duties of the bride (His church) to Him. The ordinances of the church are solemn obligations of the church, to be kept in all faithfulness. Within the church lies the disciplinary authority for proper exercising, that there might be cleanness of the body. This exercising of discipline will prepare the material placed by the Holy Spirit within the church and will cause a proper preparation for the coming of Her Lord.

It is absolutely necessary for the bride to be faithful to her husband in all things and it is by the same token, necessary for the husband to be faithful to the wife. Christ has always been faithful in all things, and most certainly faithful to His bride in everything.

While the bride awaits the coming of her groom, she is endowed with a commission. She alone — excluding all others — has this trust in her hands for proper administration and safe-keeping. No other organization on earth has this right. Since there is only one kind of church that Jesus recognizes, that church is the one which He builds, for it is His habitation through the Spirit. We must always remember that He walks and fellowships with us every time that we assemble as a church. He lives there!

The church of the Lord which is His habitation on this earth, has some other things of worthy note to us. The Tabernacle and Temple were only temporary places for they were lost in oblivion of time, but the church of

our Lord will never be supplanted nor abolished. The future of the church is glorious.

In the Old Testament we read that God dictated the furnishings of the Tabernacle in every detail. Every one of these were types of the eternal thing that they depicted. There was the candlestick to hold the light of the candles, and Christ walks in the midst of them. Rev. 2:1. He is the Light of the Church.

The "Bread of Life" is also prefigured by the "pot of manna" placed in the Ark of the Covenant. In the Lord's house there was shewbread placed upon the table, Exodus 25:30, signifying all who attend, shall be sufficiently supplied with bread. Christ Jesus is the "Bread" of life, and He is more than enough for every priest (believer) who comes to His table. Every time that the gospel is preached there is a feeding up on this Bread.

The church is a dreadful place in that marvelous things take place there. Men are turned from darkness unto light by her message. It is a place not to be feared by the Lord's people, but it is a place where we ought to walk softly and show greatest reverence with all due respect.

The church is a place where the bed of rest is found. As Boaz furnished to Ruth a place for her weary body, so Christ furnishes a place for our weary souls. Matt. 11:28. It was at the feet of Boaz that Ruth rested through the night being assured that she was safe from all alarm. She rested at his feet and felt the spread of his mantle upon her. So does Christ cause his church to rest at his feet until the morning. See Ruth 3:14. When Christ covers us with his mantle or skirt (righteousness) we are covered forever!

The work of the church today is to be done by authority of her Lord and she now has that authority. There is no provision made for the bride of Christ to delegate that authority to anyone else. She must be faithful in carrying out that commission until He calls for her. This I am sure that she shall continue to do, and in the same Biblical manner that she received it.

There is just one more thing that must not be overlooked. It is the means of support that the Faithful One designed for his beloved. The church is worthy and deserving for Christ's sake, to receive the tithes and offerings of the Lord's people. Every member who fails to support her work, fails Christ Himself. For she is the only one who has the right to dispense the glorious gospel of Her Lord.

May God bless you.

## Heaven . . . Baptists

(Continued from page one) calls itself, has any authority from the Lord to do this work. One must be a loyal and faithful and clean member of a true Missionary Baptist Church in order to be in the Bride of Jesus Christ. Now, if one truly loves the Lord, he should desire to be in His Bride. Let it be clearly understood that this is my position as to the saved person's obligation to be a member of a Baptist Church. But that is not the question of this article. The question is not as to what a saved person should do, but as to what is necessary to salvation.

I am not here dealing with the question of where different ones will dwell in eternity. I think there is a question involved in the dwelling place of the saved in glory. I think it is clear that those who are the right kind of member of true churches, and thus are rewarded by being in the Bride of Christ, will have a different dwelling place than others who are truly saved. All the saved will be unspeakably happy, and dwell in glorious (Continued on page 8, column 1)

## The Forum

(Continued from page 4)

en baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), by the resurrection of Jesus Christ." —I Pet. 3:21.

By following the Lord and taking up our cross, which starts with the belief of the gospel, and being baptized to manifest we are following the Lord, one can enter the door of fellowship with Jesus. By going in to worship and to eat spiritual food, then going out to do battle against the forces of Satan, one's life is saved, and the Shepherd has told us that, "He is not unrighteous to forget our labour of love."

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister"—Heb. 6:10.

## Habitation Of God

(Continued from page one)

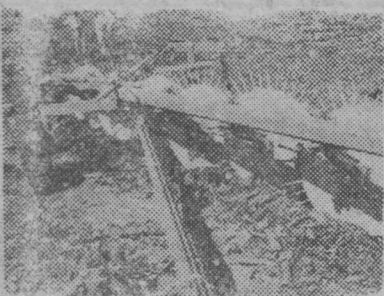
to fill her. While the former buildings were only shadows of her greatness, here in the church we see the work of God in filling and empowering her to be a witness to the world.

God dwells in the hearts of His children by faith, John 14:17. He is with you and in you. By the indwelling Spirit, God's people ever have the Lord with them. I believe that there are some who are saved but they are not in the Lord's church. They may have the Spirit of the Lord in their hearts, but they can never experience the fulness of His presence until they are become members of His body.

The Lord is not ashamed of His church because His people are chosen by Him and assembled together as a church. Acts 2:4. Since He is the builder of the church it is impossible to conceive that He would not supply her every need.

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PAGE FIVE



# Further Exposition Of Epistle Of James

By WILLARD WILLIS  
Pastor Northland Baptist Church  
Abington Road  
Columbus, Ohio

"Which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him" — James 1:12.

True love expresses itself in good deeds. It does not drag its feet, but is glad for the opportunity to do what it can for the Master. True love for the Master will not allow one to be a member of a church that is walking contrary to the Lord's Word, thus, "them that love Him" has reference to those who diligently seek to do His will. These are the ones who suffer for "righteousness sake" (Mt. 5:10), or for right doing any other kind of suffering will not result in the "crown of life" which we spoke of in our last message.

"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God" — James 1:13.

Man likes to excuse himself and blame others for his sins. He points the accusing finger at every one but himself. He may even say, "I am tempted of God;" however, we are to admit and confess our sins. We are never to sweep them under the rug or saddle someone else with them. We, in fact, are to own them as our very own as we claim other things which we own as our possessions.

We, in verse 12, read, "blessed is the man that endureth temptation." Now, here in verse 13, God would have us not to confuse the trials He sends upon us (verse 12) with the temptations we receive to commit sins. We, in fact, are to count all our trials as blessings, but we are to distinguish between these trials and the temptations we receive to commit sins.

"... for God cannot be tempted with evil" — James 1:13.

God is so holy that He is far above any temptation. God will never be tempted to change His purpose because He knew all the events of the future when He formed His purpose. There will never be a new event that might tempt Him to change His mind.

"For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed" — Mal. 3:6.

"... for God cannot be tempted with evil."

Many consider this statement to be a lie, that is, they declare by their actions that God can be tempted. Sinners do so when they, by great persuasion in prayer, try

to get God to save them. God will save only those whom He determined to save before the foundation of the world and there is no amount of persuasion which will tempt Him to do otherwise. I believe, however, that all who desire to be saved will be saved. I say this because a true desire to be saved is a work of God the Spirit.

"... neither tempteth He any man" — James 1:13.

God sends trials upon us and then gives us grace to bear them.



WILLARD WILLIS

We are aware of the heavy trials He sent upon Joseph and others. We are also aware of the fact that He gave each one grace which was greater than each trial. It remains, however, that He never tempts men to walk contrary to holiness. He only gives trials which are a means toward greater holiness.

"But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed." — James 1:14.

Here, then, is the real cause of our evil acts. God, in verse 13, made it clear that He does not tempt us to sin. Now, here in verse 14, he uncovers the real culprit.

The word for "lust," here in verse 14, means, "a strong desire to possess or enjoy," thus our own strong desires are the reason for our evil acts.

"... and enticed."

It is the nature of the fish to eat, but we entice him to eat by way of the use of bright colored bait. The devil, in like manner, entices the sinner to partake of

evil by the use of bright colored pleasures.

"Then when lust hath conceived" — James 1:15.

Lust is conceived when our strong evil desires are fulfilled; yea, when the forbidden fruit is taken and eaten. This may be accomplished by way of thought or deed.

"But I say unto you, that whoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" — Mt. 5:28.

"... it bringeth forth sin." — James 1:15.

The seeds of lust are hidden deep within our very own nature. It, for example, is as natural for man to lust as it is for an apple tree to bear apples, but the sin does not come until that lust is exercised, or until we are overcome by temptation. It needs to be pointed out, however, that the sins we commit do not make us sinners no more than apples on an apple tree make the tree an apple. An apple tree bears apples because of its being an apple tree and we sin because we are sinners by nature. Our sins, however, are a means toward our being greater sinners.

"... bringeth forth death." — James 1:15.

Lust promises nothing but complete satisfaction for the sinner. It, as far as the sinner is concerned, looks like the bait does to the fish, but the end thereof is death.

"For the wages of sin is death;

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but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." — Romans 6:23.

Sin is very sweet to the taste, but when it goes into the stomach there is vomiting and death.

"Though wickedness be sweet in his mouth, though he hide it under his tongue; though he spare it, and forsake it not; but keep it still within his mouth; yet his meat in his bowels is turned, it is the gall of asps within him." — Job 20:12-14.

"Do not err, my beloved brethren." — James 1:16.

This verse looks back to verse 13 and advises us not to err by saying that God tempts us even as we tempt a fish to partake of a bright colored bait. God lays heavy burdens upon us even as He did the Apostle Paul when He gave him a thorn in the flesh, or even as He did when He sent Joseph down into the land of Egypt, nevertheless, "let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God."

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above." — James 1:17.

The word "every" in this verse includes our health, house, clothes and a million and one other things. Our greatest gift, of course, is God's gift of His "only begotten Son."

We must be cautious not to complain if our brother has more than we have, in view of the fact that all gifts come from God and it is His right to give one more than another. We don't deserve His gifts no more than a prisoner deserves television in his prison cell. The prisoner has broken the

law of the land and deserves to be punished. We, in like manner, have broken God's laws and deserve the worst. God, however, has not dealt with us after our sins.

God's best gifts are the ones which are spiritual. We may grow weary of houses and cars, but we will never grow weary of God's spiritual blessings. Our physical life may become a burden to us, but such will never be true of our spiritual life.

"... and cometh down from the Father of lights..." — James 1:17.

Our great God is the torch where all the other lights are lit. The wisdom and holiness which we may possess has been lit at His torch.

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." — Phil. 2:13.

We have nothing except that which we have received. We are what we are only by the grace of God. I, except for God's grace would be a drunkard or a thief, or both.

"... with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." — James 1:17.

God knew what we are and what we would be tomorrow even before He gave us His gifts, therefore, there will be no new knowledge which God will receive regarding us that will cause Him to change His mind relative to His gifts. There is no "shadow of turning" with Him, because there will never be any new information fed into His computer. He, according to Job 28:27, has "searched it out," that is, He has considered every possible thing that might hinder His work and took it into account.

"Then did He see it, and declare it; He prepared it, yea, and searched it out" — Job 28:27.

"Of His own will begat He us with the Word of truth..." — James 1:18.

We observed from verse 17 that all gifts come from God. Now, here in verse 18, we are informed regarding one of His gifts. This verse also declares that His gift (eternal life) is bestowed only upon those of His choosing. The verse before us makes it very plain that God's gift of eternal life is not the result of our own choice or will, but "of His own will;" Salvation, in other words, is not of ourselves.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." — Ephesians 2:8,9.

We hear much today regarding the "free will" of man in salvation. Those, however, who advocate such are not well read in the holy Scriptures. They, for example, have not read and heeded the following verses.

"Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." — John 1:13.

"So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth,

but of God that showeth mercy" — Romans 9:16.

"Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of His will." — Ephesians 1:5.

"... begat with the Word of truth..." — James 1:18.

The fact that He "begat" us is proof enough, yea, it is positive proof that salvation is entirely of God. Man or animal cannot beget (produce) itself physically and neither can one beget (produce) themselves spiritually.

The new birth, according to II Corinthians 5:17, is a "new creation." We, of course, know or should know that the act of creating is not within man's power, in view of the fact that the act of creating involves producing something from nothing. It stands to reason then that we are His workmanship and not our own.

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." — Ephesians 2:10.

"... begat He us with the Word of truth..." — James 1:18.

The new birth is produced within these bodies of clay by way of the Spirit and the Word. We may say that the Word is the knife and the Spirit is the hand that wields the knife. A knife will not cut without the hand to guide it and the Word will not "beget," or produce without the power of the Spirit.

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

"For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus have I begotten (produced) you through the Gospel" — I Cor. 4:15.

"For our Gospel came not to you in WORD ONLY, but also in POWER, and in the HOLY SPIRIT and in much assurance, as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake" — I Thess. 1:5.

You will note from this verse that the Gospel does much more than that of bringing assurance to us. First, we read that it came in "power." Secondly, we read that it came in the "Holy Spirit," then the verse adds, "and in much assurance."

What would I mean if I said that your blood is the life of your body? Would I not mean that your body depends on your blood for life? We find a similar expression in Ephesians 1:13 regarding the Gospel.

"In whom ye also trusted after that ye heard the Word of truth, the GOSPEL OF YOUR SALVATION: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise." — Eph. 1:13.

It may be argued that the sinner is dead and cannot hear the Word. I also believe that the sinner (Continued on page 7, column 1)

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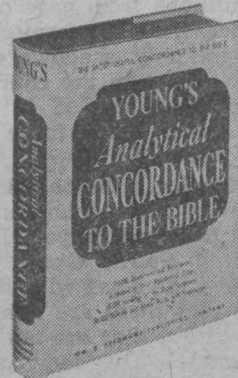
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## Epistle Of James

(Continued from page 6)

ner is dead and cannot hear the Word. Lazarus was dead and in his grave, but he heard the Words of Christ when our Lord commanded him to come forth. Lazarus is a type of every dead sinner who is quickened by the use of the Word and the Spirit and not the Spirit by Himself. I am not limiting the works of the Spirit, but I am only saying that God has ordained it this way.

"... that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures."—James 1-18.

You will observe by comparing the words "firstfruits" and "creatures" that the lost are only "creatures" in God's eyes while the saved are His "firstfruits," or those in whom He delights. You, however, who are lost may enjoy the title of "firstfruits" too, if you will trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord.

## Fred T. Halliman

(Continued from page one)

Another pastor reported disturbances with the S.D.A.'s, and so it goes. Beloved, let me tell you a fact that I have learned since being in New Guinea. The Protestant mob is far more dangerous than the Roman Catholics. To be sure, the Catholics are vowed enemies of all sound Baptists but at least they will usu-

ally admit it and will come out fighting and you know where you stand with them. On the other hand, their offspring, the Protestants and all without exception, will try to love you to death, fall all over you, go out of their way to be nice to you, call you brother and even sometimes ask you to preach in their pulpits and the minute they think you are not looking they will thrust their sword into your back clear up to the hilt, but even this they try to camouflage and lay the blame on you, insinuating that you just backed into their sword. There is only one other thing that I can think of, yea two perhaps, that does more harm to the Baptist than Protestants do, and both of these are professing Baptists. One of these is the Billy Graham type Baptist?? including Graham himself. The other is the hardshell Baptist??? that claims to be a missionary Baptist. Both types of these so-called Baptists are operating in America today and undermining many sound Baptists.

Among other things reported at our Conference, at practically every church and mission point there were folk that had been saved and awaiting baptism. All the churches also requested that the next time I was able to make a patrol into their area they wanted to observe the Lord's Supper.

May the blessings of the Lord be upon each of you.

## The Husband

(Continued from Page One)

come one flesh. Every move that he makes effects her, and God holds him responsible for every move his family makes because he is the head of the home. Throughout the entire Bible this is the case. Under the law a husband was empowered, if he pleased, to disannul the vows made by his wife (Num. 30:6-8).

When God blessed Abraham, Sarah was blessed. When God blessed Isaac, Rebekah was blessed. When Achan stole that which belonged to God, he and his family were stoned. The men who caused Daniel to be cast into the lion's den, were themselves with their families cast into the lions' den.

Thousands of men have never realized their responsibility or assumed it. Some men have shirked their responsibility, and they have run off and left their wives. It would have been better for such men if they had never been born. God will create a special place in Hell for such duty-shirking, demon-controlled men.

In the Christian home man is

## THE BREADWINNER.

The head of the home is to provide for the material needs of his household. He is responsible to provide for the temporal needs of his wife. In Eph. 5:29 it is written: "For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church." A man's wife is his own flesh. He must be industrious to supply her with food and clothing. The manner in which this is to be done is "as the Lord the church." Christ nourishes and cherishes the church; He furnishes it with all

things needful and good. So must the husband do for the wife.

It is enjoined upon the husband to provide for his children. We are told in II Cor. 12:14: "For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children." The husband is to provide "all things honest," decent, convenient and suitable to his state, condition, circumstances and abilities (Rom. 12:17). The Bible also says in I Tim. 5:8: "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." God pity the man who lays around and lets his wife make the living. May God have mercy upon the man who spends his pay check on alcoholic drinks. His family would be better off if "a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

In God's plan for a successful home man is

## THE SPIRITUAL LEADER.

In Eph. 6:4 fathers are commanded to bring up their children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." "Nurture" means "to train by chastening when needed." "Admonition" means "to train by words." This discipline and verbal training must be such as the Lord approves. So it is the husband's responsibility to lead the family in religious worship. No father has a scriptural right to rear a family and ignore their religious needs. A man is just as much responsible to provide for his family's religious needs, as he is to provide food and shelter for them.

When a man says he cannot bring his family to church, he reveals his ignorance of the responsibility which God has placed upon him. Heaven help the husband who sends his children to church, when he stays home to read the Sunday paper. In II Chron. 20:13 we read: "All Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children." The husband of the twentieth century ought to bring his whole family to public worship as the men of Israel did in olden times.

The man who does not attend church is leading his family to Hell by his example. In II Chron. 27:2 it is said that King Jotham "entered not into the temple of the Lord." Then in chapter 28:1 it is said of Ahaz, his son, that he "did not that which was right in the sight of the Lord." Father, are you leading your son to Hell like King Jotham? It will be sad indeed if you die and go to Hell, but it will be a terrible shame if you lead your family there by your Christless life. Remember, Ex. 20:5 declares that God visits "the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation."

I would to God that every father would say with the intemperate fortitude of Joshua of old: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:15).

Now let's turn our attention to the husband's

## RESPONSIBILITY TO HIS WIFE.

He is to love her with a pure, ardent and constant affection. Eph. 5:25 says: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." The husband is to love his wife with a love which resembles that of Christ for His church. He is frequently exhorted to do this because men as a rule are often prone to fail to express their love. It is said of Isaac that "he loved" Rebekah (Gen. 24:67). In Gen. 29:18 it is written that "Jacob loved Rachel." So it should be with every man who has a wife.

A man is to love his wife with a love superior to that shown to any creature. A man is to love his neighbor as himself, but one's wife is himself. Loving her is loving himself (Eph. 5:28-29).

Parents are to be loved, but a wife is to be loved before them, for a man is to leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife (Gen. 2:24). Children are to be loved, but the wife comes before them. Elkanah said to Hannah in I Sam. 1:8: "Am not I better to thee than ten sons?"

The husband is to love his wife to the extent that he will take pleasure in her person. In Prov. 5:18-19 we read: "Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times: and be thou ravished always with her love." See also Eccl. 9:9.

His love for her should be chaste and single as the love of Christ for His church. In Song of Sol. 6:9 Christ says of His church: "My dove, my undefiled is but one."

It is written in Col. 3:19: "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them." The man must not be given to bitter language, threatening words, sour looks, etc. He must never be given to bitter blows which are cruel, barbarous, brutish and unbecoming to a gentleman.

The husband must protect his wife from all abuses and injuries, for she is the weaker vessel. He is to expose himself to danger and even risk his life in the defense of his wife. This is seen in I Sam. 30. Verse 5 says: "And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite." Then in verse 18 we read: "And David recovered all that the Amalekites carried away: and David rescued his two wives."

The man should do all within reason to contribute to the pleasure, peace, comfort and happiness of his wife. In I Cor. 7:33 we are told that "he that is married" is to care "how he may please his wife."

He is to seek her spiritual welfare because they are heirs together of the grace of life. The man should join with his wife in family worship, in reading, in praise and in Christian conversation.

In closing let us turn our attention to the Father's

## RESPONSIBILITY TO HIS CHILDREN.

In the average home everything is run by switches except the children. But the Bible teaches that fathers are to discipline their children. The Scriptures give four reasons for doing this: (1) Because they need it — "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him" (Prov. 22:15); (2) Because it will improve their conduct — "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame" (Prov. 29:15); (3) Because we love them — "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes" (Prov. 13:24); (4) Because chastisement is a means of delivering our children's souls from Hell — "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from Hell" (Prov. 23:13-14). Fathers should not be like Eli. I Sam. 3:13 declares that Eli's sons were vile and that "he restrain-

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ed them not."

The father is to teach his children spiritual matters in the home. In Deut. 11:9 we read: "And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them (the commandments of the Lord) when thou sittest in thine house." We must not leave all the spiritual training of our children to a forty-five minute Sunday school period. Blessed is that child who like Timothy has known the Scriptures from an early age (I Tim. 3:15). In Prov. 22:6 we read: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." We are not to train them up in the way they want to go, but in "the way they should go." If we train them the wrong way, when they are old they will not depart from it.

In Eph. 6:4 we read: "Ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath." Fathers are not to provoke children by unreasonable commands (I Sam. 20:30), nor by loving one more than another as Jacob did Joseph (Gen. 37:8). If a father provokes his children to wrath, they will become discouraged; they will despair in pleasing their parents (Col. 3:21).

Fathers are to pray for their children. In Gen. 17:18 it is written: "And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee!" Hannah said of Samuel: "For this child I prayed." See I Sam. 1:27.

## CONCLUSION

Father, have you been born (Continued on page 8, column 1)

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

DECEMBER 9, 1972

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## The Husband

(Continued from page seven)  
again? Are you saved by God's grace? If not, you can never be the kind of person God wants you to be. Why not acknowledge Christ as your head and submit to His authority? You cannot expect your wife or your children to acknowledge your authority until you bow to God's authority.



## Heaven . . . Baptists

(Continued from page five)  
places, but there seems to be a special and wonderful city which will be the home of the Lord's Bride. But that is not the question of this article.

I

It is beyond dispute that there will be some in Heaven who were not Baptists on the earth. Old Testament saints will be there. The true church of our Lord is a New Testament institution. It is an age institution. It was started by our Lord Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry. Certainly those who were saved and gone into eternity before that time could not be members of His church. The O.T. church, of which we read so much, is a

heresy invented by depraved mind. There was no church in those days. However, there were a multitude who were saved during those days. I feel satisfied that Adam and Eve were partakers of the saving grace of God, God providing for them coats of skins, a marvellous type of the imputed righteousness of Christ, is one thing that makes me believe they were saved. Certainly, Abel was saved, and entered into the Paradise of God as the first monument of saving grace to arrive on the other side. Enoch was saved, and raptured to glory without dying. Noah was saved, and used to preserve a seed alive upon the earth. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph were monuments of sovereign, effectual grace in Old Testament days. Many others could be named, and surely, there is a multitude known only to God. These were truly saved, and will be in Heaven though they were not Baptists.

II

There will be a multitude saved during the tribulation who will be in Heaven, even though they will never have the privilege of being Baptists. You see, the church is an age institution. It began with the earthly ministry of Christ. It will end with

the rapture of the saints, for all true believers will be raptured, and true churches will cease from the face of the earth. Rev. 1:19 and 4:1 inform us beyond a doubt, that the tribulation will not begin until the churches (the things that are) are over, and the saved are caught up through an open door into the presence of the Lord. So that, following the rapture, no one, though truly saved, will have the opportunity of being a Baptist. However, a multitude will be saved during the tribulation which follows the rapture. Rev. 7:1-8 informs us of 144,000 Jews who will be saved early in the Tribulation, be sealed, and be spared physically through that terrible time (Rev. 14:1). Rev. 12 and other places inform us that a multitude of Jews will be saved besides these, who will mostly be martyred during this time. Rev. 7:9-17 informs us of a multitude of Gentiles which no man can number (v. 9) who will be saved during the Great Tribulation. Now, certainly all these, saved by God's sovereign grace, out of that terrible time, will be in Heaven — yet they will not be and could not be Baptists.

III

Following the tribulation, there will be the glorious Millennial reign of our Lord. This will be pre-eminently a time of salvation. God's Spirit will be poured out as we have never seen it, and the vast majority of those born during that time will be saved. But there will be no Baptist Churches on earth at that time. Now, loyal, faithful Baptists who were rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ with being in the Bride, and who were married to Him in glory shortly before the battle of Armageddon, will reign with Jesus Christ during the Millennium. But folk who are saved during that time will not have the privilege of being in Baptist Churches, for the church will not be here in that sense, nor for that purpose. However, surely, this multitude of saved people, who will probably equal or surpass in number the saved of all other ages, will be in Heaven. Still, all this — these three groups who will be in heaven though not Baptists — this does not answer fully the question of this article.

IV

The main question thereof is: Are folk saved in this age who are not Baptists — without being Baptists? Listen carefully as we answer this.

Being a Baptist has nothing to do with salvation. Now, brother, I will yield to no man in my high esteem of the church of our Lord Jesus Christ. I love this institution dearly. I preach often on Church Truth. I praise God for the privilege of being a member of a Missionary Baptist Church. I go as far as the Bible goes in teaching the truth about the Lord's Church. Without hesitation, I affirm that the man who goes farther than I do in this matter, has gone too far — has gone beyond the Word of God.

Let me digress a moment, and yet, it is not a digression. One can become a heretic by going too far as well as by not going far enough. The Arminian is a heretic because he does not go far enough with the Doctrines of Grace. The Hardshell is a heretic because he goes too far with the same doctrines. And, brother, I have just as much respect for one of these heresies as I do the other — which is none at all. One can be a heretic by not going far enough with the truth about the church, and one can become a heretic by going too far with the same truth. You may argue with my terminology here, but you know what I mean.

Let me digress further, and yet not further. I have become appalled at what some are doing with the doctrine of the church. Now, I have been a believer in church truth for several years. I have been closely associated with

"sound Church Truth men" for about 15 years, very closely for 9 years. Yet, I have heard things taught about the church in the last two years that I never heard of before. Some of these men are sound men in many respects — good men and dear friends, but they would have to admit that they are now teaching things they had not heard of until recently. Some of these things make me shudder. Some of them I draw away from with utter horror. I thank God these things were not around when I was coming into church truth. Surely, they would, apart from God's grace, have utterly repelled me from any study of the subject. I stand where I have stood for many years now. I will not accept these "new" views of church doctrine, apart from overwhelming Scripture proof, which I do not at all expect to see. Now, one of the reasons I shudder so about these things, is I fear as to where they are headed. I look down the road of these "new" things, and I think I see a time not too far distant, when men will be shutting salvation up inside a Baptist Church, and leaving all those outside to perish in everlasting torment. I reject such a heresy as this would be. I look skeptically at those "new" things that seem headed in this direction. Brethren, I call on you to give close attention to this matter.

Now back to where we were, being a Baptist has nothing to do with salvation. Now, here I stand without apology. This is truth. Let us beware, oh! beloved, let us beware of putting anything forth as necessary to salvation, which is not so taught in God's Word. Woe to that man who puts stumbling blocks in the way of the blind, and woe to that man who puts forth, as essential to salvation, that which is not so declared in the Bible. The Campbellite, with his baptism before salvation, is no more a heretic, than the so-called Baptist who puts being a Baptist before salvation as necessary thereto. Besides, all of us were saved before we were Baptists. What is a Baptist Church? It is a local visible assembly of Scripturally-baptized believers. (It is more than this, but this much is sufficient for my purpose). Therefore, one must be a believer, before he can be a Baptist. What ordinance is essential to being a Baptist? What is the door into a Baptist Church? We all answer, Baptism. What have sound Baptists always taught as essential to baptism? Well, one of them has always been: a Scriptural subject, a believer in Jesus Christ. So we see that belief in Jesus Christ is essential to baptism. We see that baptism is essential to being a Baptist. We see that those who believe are saved. Therefore one is saved before baptism — one is saved before being a Baptist — and being a Baptist has nothing to do with salvation.

V

What does the Bible set forth as being necessary to salvation? First of all, we know that, from God's standpoint, the doctrines of grace are necessary to salvation. But, I speak from the standpoint of man's experience of the salvation which is of the Lord. What is necessary to that? I mention four things.

1. One must be brought by the Holy Spirit to realize his lost condition, before he will be saved. Surely, we will admit this. The Son of Man came to seek and save that which was lost. No man will ever turn in saving repentance and faith to the Lord Jesus Christ, until that man knows that he is a lost sinner in need of salvation. Oh, how we need to see this in our days. To see the Holy Spirit making folk aware of their awful lost undone condition is the desire of our hearts.

2. One must be brought to realize that he cannot save himself. No one will be saved until he is brought to see this.

3. One must believe that Jesus Christ is who the Bible says He is, and that He did what the Bible says He did. Here is the

gospel, without which men must perish eternally. We must preach that Jesus is the virgin-born Son of God — that He is God Almighty incarnate. We must preach that He died on the cross for our sins. We must preach that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. Brethren, let us make much of this glorious gospel in our ministry. Here is that portion of the Word of God which the Spirit uses in giving life to dead sinners. Let us preach it constantly. Men must believe this in order to be saved.

4. One must personally trust the Lord Jesus Christ as his own personal Saviour. Now these things are necessary to salvation. We must preach them. But being a Baptist, important as it is to those already saved, has nothing to do with salvation.

Now, the person, who realizes he is lost — that he cannot save himself — that Jesus Christ is who the Bible says He is, and did what the Bible says He did — the person who receives Jesus Christ as personal Saviour — this man is saved for time and eternity without the addition of anything else. He is saved by grace through faith plus nothing. I beseech you do not tamper with this matter.

Now, this one who is thus saved by God-given, Spirit-wrought faith in Jesus Christ should do some things. He should not do them in order to be saved for they have nothing to do with salvation. He should do them because he is saved. He should do them because he loves the Lord who saved him.

He should follow Christ in Scriptural baptism. This means that he should be immersed in water, on the authority of a true Missionary Baptist Church, to show forth the gospel by which he was saved, and as the act of obedience of an already saved person.

This baptism is the door by which he enters one of the Lord's true churches, and it is obligatory upon every saved person to be a member of one of the Lord's churches. So every saved person should most assuredly be a Baptist.

He should attend the services of that church as faithfully as possible.

He should give tithes and offerings to the Lord faithfully and regularly by giving them into the church of which he is a member (assuming that it is a true Baptist church). He should live a clean life to the glory of the Lord and the honor of his church.

He should serve God in any way he can as a member of, and under the authority of the church.

He should pray much for God's blessings upon the church of which he is a member.

Now, beyond argument, every saved person should do these things. By not doing these things, he dishonors the Lord, he loses blessings here, and rewards hereafter. But, his not doing these things has nothing to do with salvation. His doing them does not make him one whit more a saved man. He may lose his assurance, and wonder if he is truly saved. He may lose his evidence before others, so that they do not believe he is saved. He may lose blessings and rewards. But, if he is a true believer in Jesus Christ as his own Saviour, he is saved forevermore. Oh, brother, let us maintain the duty of the saved person. Let us preach his responsibility. Let us warn him against not doing what saved people ought to do. But let us not add one thing as essential to salvation beyond the Word of God, and that means that being a Baptist has nothing to do with salvation. I would not disparage the Lord's Church. I hold it in the highest esteem. My preaching and my articles testify to this. But, brother, baptism is to the Lord's church. Salvation is essential to baptism. Salvation is not in the church. It is outside the door and through faith in Jesus Christ. I will not add to nor detract from the Bible, God being my helper. God bless you all.

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