

JOE WILSON

The Baptist Examiner

The Baptist Paper for the Baptist People

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

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One year — \$2.00; Two years — \$3.50
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Entered as second class matter MAY 9, 1961, in the post office at Ashland, Kentucky, under the act of March 3, 1879.

"Abundant Pardon"

(Continued from page one)

er you anymore till next spring." He thought God was pretty hard up. He didn't realize that God does things abundantly.

Of recent date, we printed a cover for a record album in our printing shop. The title of the album was "Lord, It's Me Again." I never paid any attention to it. I didn't know what the song was. We just printed the dust jacket to cover over the album. A few weeks later, I heard a man sing that song over the radio, "Lord, It's Me Again." The implication of it was, "Lord, I'm sorry to have to come back to you and bother you again, but it is me again."

Then I often think of the man, a layman, that I have heard and known well through the years. One night, when he was called on to pray, he said something like this, "I don't know whether I am saved or not, Lord. If I could just slip into Heaven and sit on the back seat, I'll be satisfied."

Beloved, here are four instances of people in prayer, all of whom had a very, very sorry idea of Almighty God. They thought, or at least they evidenced such, that God had just about run out of supplies. I think the attitude of these four individuals in four different states is pretty well characteristic of the majority of the people of this world who have a wrong idea as to God's dealings, for whatever God does, God does abundantly.

Do you remember when the Lord Jesus Christ fed the 5,000? They not only had enough to feed the 5,000, but they picked up 12 baskets full of fragments when the meal was over. When He fed the 4,000 miraculously, they picked up seven baskets full of fragments that was left over.

I say to you, God isn't about to go out of business. You can't put God in a cramp. There isn't

any way that you can do anything by way of prayer that would put God in a cramp. Listen:

"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."—Rom. 8:37.

I tell you, beloved, God isn't impoverished. He has a great store of blessings awaiting every one of us. As my text would certainly indicate, when He forgives us — when He saves us, He abundantly pardons us. As I say, whatever He does, He does it abundantly, and surely the pardon He gives us is an abundant pardon.

I

THE ABUNDANCE OF THE OBJECTS OF PARDON IS REMARKABLE.

God doesn't pardon just a few. God pardons lots of folk. Go back in the Old Testament and look at Adam. I expect to see him walk the streets of Glory. I come down the avenues of time and I see Abel and Seth. I see a great multitude along the way that I am sure have been saved. When I think about this great crowd that has been saved in the years gone by and shall be saved down to the end of time, I say that the abundance of the objects of pardon is truly astounding.

Jesus said: "That MANY shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven."—Mt. 8:11.

This doesn't sound like there is just going to be a few people there. This doesn't sound like there will be just a few in the "Amen corner." Rather, this text says that "many shall come from the east and west."

Notice again: "And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands."—Rev. 5:11.

What are they doing? They are singing the praise of Almighty God. Bring on your adding machines and your calculators. Bring on your secretaries and your clerks. Bring on all the mathematicians and the bookkeepers that you can find. Bring on all the school teachers and all the people who know how to figure and count that number, "ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands." It is impossible for us to number the multitudes who are the recipients of salvation or the object of His pardon.

Listen again: "And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth."—Rev. 18:6.

The preceding chapter tells the story of the destruction of the old whore and her harlot daughters. It tells the story of how Protestantism and Romanism are finally removed as a curse from the earth. It tells how that God's people breathed for the first time pure air religiously. John saw,

Evolution???

May there is something to this idea of evolution proposed by Charles Darwin. Maybe people did descend from lower animals, for church folk often seem stubborn as MULES about church work: sly as a FOX in their own business deals; busy as BEES in spreading the latest gossip; blind as a BAT to the world's need; quiet as a MOUSE in spreading the Gospel; but have eyes like a HAWK to see the mote in their brother's eye. They are eager as a BEAVER about a bazaar and bar-b-que, but lazy as a DOG about prayer meeting: mean as SNAKES when things don't go their way; but gentle as a LAMB when they need the pastor's aid; noisy as CROWS for the church to advance but slow as SNAILS in visiting the unchurched. Many are night OWLS on a Saturday night but BED BUGS on Sunday morning, slippery as EELS on Sunday night and scarce as HEN'S teeth during a revival!!!

—Selected

pauses, and listens. "How many are there, John, in that crowd?" "A great multitude." "How many is that multitude?" "It sounds like the voice of many waters." "Listen again, John, and tell me how many there are." "It sounds like the voice of mighty thunderings." "Listen again, John, and tell me what it is." "They are saying, 'Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.'"

I say to you, beloved, the abundance of the objects of pardon is truly astounding.

As a lad, before I could hardly walk, I was taken to church. They put me in the Card Class on Sunday, and I remember that my legs weren't long enough to bend over the seat yet. I could sit on the seat with my legs sticking out. I can remember the old preacher preaching. He talked about Heaven. He talked about Hell. It looked like every time he said anything he just took a slice off humanity and consigned such to Hell. He would go a little further and take another slice

We Covet Your Prayers!

off humanity and consign it to Hell. I looked over in the Amen corner and saw a deacon sitting there. I thought maybe he would get in. I thought maybe the preacher would get in. I remembered my mother, and I said, "Surely she will get in." As that preacher preached, it just looked to me like he just consigned the entire congregation to Hell itself. Somehow I had an idea there was going to be a mighty small number that was going to be saved. But long ago, as a result of reading these Scriptures, I came to this conclusion, that the objects of pardon was an abundant group. Whenever I read this text that talks about abundant pardon, I say, "Thank God, the objects of abundant pardons are going to be abundant themselves."

II

THE ABUNDANT SINS WHICH ARE PARDONED ARE ASTOUNDING.

Just think of the sins that are pardoned. How abundant they are! Thoughts, words and deeds of your life, my life, the life of the man or woman sitting next to you, the lives of your friends. Those thoughts, words and deeds from the day of Adam down to this time have been abundant.

Have you ever noticed how a daily newspaper usually accumulates around a home? If you get

one paper, it isn't long until you have a stack to haul away. Suppose you got two papers a day. Suppose you got three or four. Suppose you had a paper coming to you every hour of the day. You would have a tremendous stack of papers in no time at all to be hauled off.

Beloved, that is nothing to be compared to the sins of your life and mine. How they do stack up! How they do accumulate! Think of all the sins by way of thoughts, words and deeds on the part of the elect of God from the day of Adam down to this. I tell you, it is abundant as to the number of sins that have been pardoned.

Of recent date, I was thinking if God ever got tired. I read in the book of Genesis that when He created the world He rested on the seventh day. That doesn't say He got tired. I went through God's Word and I said, "Lord, is there any place at all that talks about you ever getting tired? If there is, I want to know it. I want to find it out." Then I turned to Isaiah 43:24 and read:

"Thou hast bought me no sweet cane with money, neither hast thou filled me with the fat of thy sacrifices: but thou hast made me to serve with thy sins, thou HAST WEARIED ME with thine iniquities."

Beloved, there is only one thing that ever wearied Almighty God and that is the sins and the iniquities of the people of God through the years. Talk about the abundance of them; our sins are truly abundant.

Oh, doesn't it thrill your heart (Continued on page 3, column 1)

Epistle Of James

(Continued from page one)

thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon"—Isaiah 55:7.

Thoughts have their birth in our hearts. The heart is the fountain of evil thoughts which generate into evil acts.

"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies"—Mt. 15:19.

It becomes obvious, then, that to cleanse the hands and not the heart is of no value. It is like washing only the outside of the platter. We learn from Psalm 51:6 that God requires "truth in the inward parts."

"... ye double minded"—James 4:8.

A double minded person has affections that are divided. He desires to hold on to the world and also to draw nigh to God. The double minded are like some of George Washington's soldiers, who, after crossing the Brandywine, asked Mr. Washington if they should burn the bridge or leave it standing in case there would be need to retreat. Mr. Washington advised them to burn the bridge, since it was to be victory or death for them. May we also, by His grace, resolve to burn the bridges that lead back into evil. May we be resolved to follow the Master wherever He has chosen to lead us.

How To Produce A Left-Winger!

A "left-winger" is one who will burn the American flag, and wave a North Vietnamese flag. He will advocate the murder of unborn babies and protest the execution of the murderer of a United States Senator. He is "high" from the effects of drugs while advocating the government shutdown all factories which have smokestacks, etc. The way to produce this character is to take him to an Arminian church where he does not hear the Sovereignty of God preached in election and damnation. Our forefathers preached the God of the Bible and these great doctrines and they DID NOT PRODUCE "LEFT-WINGERS."

—Haywood, California Church Bulletin

"Be afflicted..."—James 4:9.

We who are "sinners" and the "doubled minded," should count such as an affliction. Paul, you will recall from Romans 7:24, considered his fleshly nature to be an affliction.

"O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death."

An affliction is a "prolonged pain of body or mind," thus sin is definitely an affliction, since it is with us from birth to the grave.

We are to "be afflicted" in that we recognize our sins as afflictions rather than treating them as virtues. The drunkard, for example, must not go on drinking, but he must "be afflicted" because of his condition; that is, recognize it as an affliction and treat it as such. A person who has cancer will not take it seriously until he admits the condition to himself. It is also true that a person will not take sinning seriously until he recognizes the heinousness of it.

"Be afflicted, and mourn and weep..."—James 4:9.

Afflictions, mourning and weeping, represent three stages of the believer's duty. First, there is an affliction, or a wound. Secondly, there is mourning that comes from an observation of the wound. Thirdly, there is sadness and weeping because of the recognized wound. The Apostle Peter is an excellent example of these three stages. He, after having betrayed his Lord, was afflicted. The result of his affliction was that he mourned and wept over his sin. He, in fact, "went out and wept bitterly."

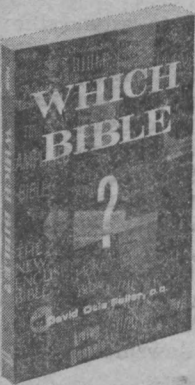
I'm sure that James is not advocating that we walk around with long faces, or as the late Tom Simmons, my former pastor, would say, "a face long enough to eat oats out of a churn." We, after having seen the error of our way and confessed it in repentance to God, must rejoice because of our great Saviour and intercessor who has cleansed us from all sin.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"—I John 1:9.

"... let your laughter be turned..." (Continued on page 6, column 4)

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"Abundant Pardon"

(Continued from Page Two)

when you turn to my text and read how He gives us abundant pardon? Who, beloved? Those who have sinned an abundance of sins. Our God has given us an abundance of pardon from them all.

III

WHAT THE FATHER DID IN CHOOSING US WAS ABUNDANT.

I often like to think about the work of the Trinity. What the Father did was truly abundant. Listen:

"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD."—Rev. 13:8.

Isn't it great to know that God did something for us from the foundation of the world?

Listen again:

"According as he hath chosen us in him BEFORE THE FOUNDATION of the world."—Eph. 1:4.

Talk about what God the Father did to make our salvation an abundant salvation and to give us abundant pardon. I tell you, what the Father did was really abundant. He chose us before the foundation of the world.

God wasn't surprised when sin became a reality. God wasn't shocked.

When I was just a boy, before I was even saved, I heard Billy Sunday say that one day God looked down over the battlements of Glory to this earth and said, "I do believe my people have sinned." I can see Billy Sunday now as he wrung his hands and walked backwards and forwards across the rostrum. He said that God was surprised, and shocked, and almost stunned when he realized the people of this world had sinned. Then he said that God walked into the garden and chose there the lily of the valley, the sweetest flower of them all, and sent Him down to this earth to be a Saviour.

Now that part is true. God did send Jesus Christ to be the Saviour, but He didn't choose Jesus for that part after man sinned. God wasn't shocked, God wasn't stunned, and God wasn't surprised. I tell you, salvation isn't any hurried up first aid. Salvation is not any hurried up panacea that God got ready after man sinned. God planned for our salvation back yonder before anyone was ever born. Before any of us ever came into this world, God had planned our salvation. He had already chosen us and had our names written down. Every one of us who shall get to Heaven after a while will be there, not because we persevered, and not because we held out faithful to the end, but we will be there because God chose us for that position before the foundation of the world.

I say, beloved, the abundance of the objects of pardon amazes me. The abundance of the sins from whence we have been forgiven amazes me. What God the Father did was certainly an abundance of grace in our behalf.

IV

WHAT THE SON DID WHEN

HE ATONED FOR OUR SINS WAS ABUNDANT.

We read:

"And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement."—Rom. 5:11.

The word "atonement" is the word "reconciliation," and Paul says we receive it through the Lord Jesus Christ.

I see Jesus as He started out through the streets of Jerusalem. I can see Him as He went to the hill of the skull carrying His cross. Beloved, Jesus carried more than a cross that day. He carried my sins that day. He carried the sins of all the elect of God of all ages that day when He went out of Pilate's judgment hall bearing that cross.

In "Pilgrim's Progress," Bunyan has Pilgrim carrying a great burden. Only when that burden fell off him was Pilgrim able to raise himself, to straighten up, when the burden of sin fell off his back.

I tell you, beloved, if it hadn't been for the Lord Jesus Christ who died for our sins, there wouldn't be a one of us who would have gotten rid of that burden of sin. There is not a one of us who would have been able to stand straight and say, "I walk with a King." I tell you, it is wonderful what Jesus Christ did for us!

The Arminians say that we are saved by grace and kept by works. That is not true. We are saved by Jesus Christ and we are kept by Jesus Christ, and we are endowed and endued by Jesus Christ to do work for Him. When we get to Glory, we'll never say that we just barely made it there. Rather, when we get to Glory, we'll sing, "All hail the power of Jesus' name!" because it is Jesus Christ that saved us, kept us, preserved us and brought us to Heaven.

Talk about an abundant pardon! That is what my text talks about. The objects of salvation were abundant. The sins from whence we have been saved are abundant. What the Father did in saving us was abundant. When the Son died for us that we might be saved — reconciliation and atonement — was abundant.

V

WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT DID FOR US IN SAVING US WAS ABUNDANT.

Isn't it wonderful to know that He drew us? Jesus said:

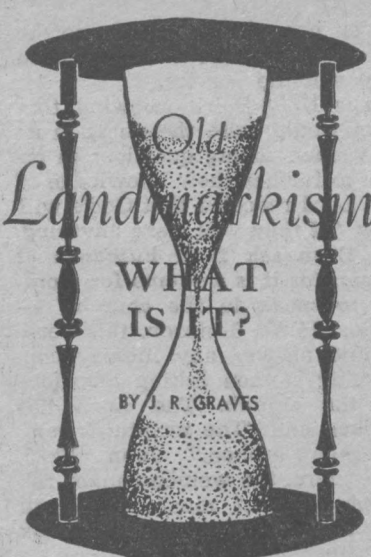
"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will DRAW all men unto me."—John 12:32.

This doesn't say that He is going to save everybody in the world, but it means He is going to draw all of His elect unto Him.

A man may say, "Couldn't a fellow hold back, and hold out, against God? Couldn't a man withstand God to the extent that God couldn't save him?" Whenever a man asks me that question I always cite him the experience of the Apostle Paul when he was arrested. We read:

"And all the city was moved, and the people ran together: and they took Paul, and drew (dragged) him out of the temple."—Acts 21:30.

The word for "drag" is the



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same word that is translated "draw" in John 12:32, when Jesus said, "I will draw all men unto me." Beloved, Saul could have held back, but it wouldn't have done any good. You can resist God, but if God draws you, it won't do any good. He'll drag you to Him.

Listen again:

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me."—John 6:37.

I thank God that what the Holy Spirit does for us in salvation is abundant. He had to draw us. If it had been left up to us we would have gone on in sin. We love it too much. If it had been left up to us, every last one of us would be some place else tonight. We would be in a bowling alley or we would be in a picture show. We would be some place in sin so far as this world is concerned. There wouldn't be a one of us here tonight if the Holy Spirit hadn't drawn us. He drew us out of the things of this world. He drew us to Jesus Christ. He saved us. Jesus Christ saved us in the light of the Father's choice, and we are what we are because the Holy Spirit first of all drew us.

You talk about something abundant. I tell you, it was abundant what the Holy Spirit did. If He hadn't done it, not a one of us would be saved tonight. Somebody says, "But, Brother Gilpin, you say that a man can't resist God. You limit a man. You say that it is all the work of the Holy Spirit. Couldn't a man hold out against God if he wanted to?" Beloved, if this were possible, you would have a great big man and a mighty sorry God. I say, what the Holy Spirit did for us in drawing us was abundant.

VI

THE ABUNDANT EASE OF THE TERMS OF PARDON.

In order to pardon men, God doesn't have any hard, harsh terms to lay down. There is no penance, and no purgatory. Isn't that wonderful! It thrills my heart when I remember that I don't have to get down on my bare knees and crawl for a hundred miles and pay penance in that manner in order to get to Heaven. I thank God that I don't have to go through the frying pan of purgatory and be singed on one side and fricasseed on the other and parboiled a little bit on top. I don't have to have that kind of experience. There's no hard, harsh terms like penance and purgatory. Instead, the terms of our pardon are repentance and faith. Listen:

"Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins."—Acts 5:31.

"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.

You talk about the terms of pardon! No penance; no purgatory. Just repentance and faith, and even those are gifts from God. We have this abundant par-

don which comes to us with abundant ease from the standpoint of the terms of the pardon.

VII

THE ABUNDANT FULLNESS OF THAT PARDON.

If you are saved, do you know how much of a pardon you have? You are pardoned from all sins. You talk about the fullness of that pardon. It is so abundant that we are pardoned from all our sins. Listen:

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN."—1 John 1:7.

Notice, in Colossians 2:13, Paul talks about "all trespasses." In Titus 2:14, he talks about "all iniquity." In 1 John 1:7, the Apostle John says that "the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." You talk about the fullness of the pardon that we have! That abundant fullness of the pardon that He has given us surely is astounding to me. I haven't got an iniquity. I haven't got a transgression. I haven't got a sin. God has already taken care of them through the blood of Jesus Christ. That is abundant.

VIII

THE ABUNDANT BLESSINGS WHICH ATTEND OUR PARDON ARE TRULY WONDERFUL.

Isn't it wonderful that He adopts us into His family? If you are saved, you are a part of God's family right now. There was a time when you were of the Devil's family, but you are an adopted child of God now. You have been adopted into God's family. You talk about a blessing. It is something to know that God is my Father, Jesus Christ is my elder brother, Heaven is my home, and I am an adopted child of God.

Talk about the abundant blessings, look at the communion we have with a thrice-holy God. I don't go about my work any day but what I am in communion with Him. I am in communion with the Father who chose me, the Son who died for me, and the Holy Spirit who drew me. I have a communion with them day by day. It is wonderful to have someone that you love and appreciate to be in communion with. Beloved, I am in communion with a thrice-holy God every hour of every day.

I think also of another blessing and that is, we are clothed in His righteousness.

It won't be too long until Easter. I hope the Lord will forgive me for mentioning the word, but it won't be too long until Easter Sunday comes around and everybody will dress up. You know, beloved, I am already dressed up. I have been dressed up ever since the day the Lord Jesus Christ saved me. I have a robe of righteousness, the like of which this world can't provide. You talk about the abundant blessings which we have. I tell you, I am clothed in the righteousness of God's Son, Jesus Christ. When God sees me, He doesn't see me as a filthy sinner which I am, but He sees me clothed in the

righteousness of the Son of God.

You talk about blessings, this one will give you a rise when you remember the ultimate admission you are going to have into Glory after while.

Some of these days, I am going to Glory. I don't know how it is going to be, or what route I am going to take. I don't know whether I am going to go by the route of death or whether I am going to go by the route of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. I don't know which way I am going, but I do know one thing: I am going to Glory. When that time comes and I get there, I am not going to say, "Lord, look down there in Ashland and see the work that I have done." I am not going to say, "Lord, look down there and see THE BAPTIST EXAMINER and those that have been blessed thereby." I am not going to say, "Lord, I'd like for you to just check my works and see if they give me permission to go in." I am not going to say that. Do you know what is going to happen? The gates of Heaven are going to open wide. I am not going to have to say anything, because as a child of God, saved by the blood of Jesus, clothed in the robe of His righteousness, having been drawn by the Holy Spirit to God, I am going to walk in through the gates of God into Glory. Talk about a wonderful admission — we are going to have it.

Every once in a while I sing, "When the Gates Swing Outward Never," and I remember the man who wrote that song during World War I. His son had left him to go to war and the father was grieved. The son spoke to his father just as he got on the boat. He said, "Father, if I don't come back, I'll see you where the gates swing outward never." The father sat down and wrote that song, "Where the Gates Swing Outward Never."

Oh, what a blessing it is going to be to someday have an ultimate admission up there too! It is abundant.

CONCLUSION

To sum it all up, I'll say that the abundance of the objects of pardon are abundant; the abundance of sins which are pardoned is abundant; what the Father did concerning us is abundant; what the Holy Spirit did for us in drawing us was abundant. I would remind you of the abundant ease of pardon, the abundant fullness of our pardon, and the abundant blessings which are ours which attend our pardon. Can you think of anything better?

In closing, I turn to God's Word and I heard the man of God as he says:

"But thou art a God READY to pardon."—Neh. 9:17.

My text talks about an abundant pardon and Nehemiah says, "But thou art a God ready to pardon."

Sinner friend, I would remind you that I represent a God that is ready to pardon. Might it please Him to pardon you tonight. Might it please Him to save you tonight. Might you leave this place a child of God tonight.

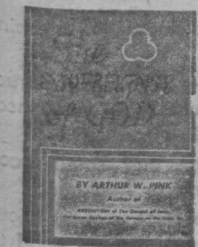
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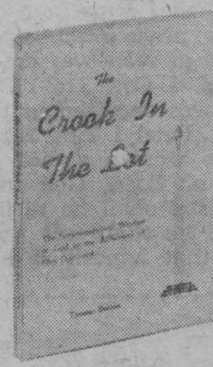
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PAGE THREE



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The Baptist Examiner FORUM

"Should a woman keep silent in a mixed adult Sunday school class? Are they allowed to ask questions in such a class? When we are dismissed from the assembly and go to our classes, are we still in the assembly? How do other Sovereign Grace churches carry out the teaching of silence as obviously imposed by God in I Corinthians 14:37?"

**ROY
MASON**
RADIO MINISTER
BAPTIST PREACHER
Aripeka, Florida



I guess there is room for difference of opinion here, for certainly there is a difference between a church assembly and a Sunday school class. Likewise there is a difference between a mixed class of men and women and a class composed solely of women. In a class of women she would certainly have a right to speak, or ask a question. Let us remember that such a thing as a modern Sunday school was unknown to the churches of New Testament times. Most Sunday schools are a farce so far as real teaching of the Bible is concerned. Classes are taught by persons who don't even claim to be called of God to minister His Word. Teachers who don't themselves know the Bible are selected to teach. Of course there are exceptions.

To go back to the question, it would seem to be the wise thing for a woman to keep silent in a mixed class. If there is widespread talking on the part of women in such classes, it will soon creep over into church services. It is not wise for men to do much talking in such a class. People should meet to be taught — not to take over the service. I knew a man once who thought that the best way to conduct a class was to let questions be asked and debated. When he taught, his class was often a place of noisy, heated, and sometimes angry debate.

**E. G.
COOK**

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Baptist Church
Birmingham, Ala.



Will Rogers used to say that all he knew was what he saw in the newspaper. Well, all I know on this subject is what I see in the Book. And in I Cor. 14:35 we read, "And if they (the women) will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church." If it is a mixed class I am persuaded that this Scripture applies. They do not have to be in the auditorium in order to be assembled.

As a rule, women who belong to Sovereign Grace Churches are women who want to be faithful to the precious Word of God. So all that is necessary to carry out the Bible teaching on this sub-

ject is to teach them what the Word says. They are women who have a desire to hear their Lord say "Well done thou good and faithful servant." And they know that they must obey His Word if they are to hear that wonderful commendation.

Mrs. J. Benningfield of Hodgenville, Kentucky said in the January 20, 1973 issue of the Western Recorder that "Women were discriminated against in Paul's day," but women who know and love God's Word do not agree with her on this score. They know that though Heaven and earth should pass away, God's Word will not pass away. So any church that desires to carry out the teaching of silence in the church needs to teach what the Word of God says about it. And those who do not want to obey the Word of God can move on. They will have no trouble in finding a church where they can chatter like a gang of frustrated Jay Birds.

**AUSTIN
FIELDS**

PASTOR,
ARABIA BAPTIST
CHURCH
610 High Street
Coal Grove,
Ohio



Yes, women should keep silent in a mixed Sunday school, not only in a Bible study, but in all the services of the church. The Holy Spirit has very clearly defined and pointed out the position of women in the church, and that position is one of silence, which includes teaching, testifying, preaching and praying. In fact, the Spirit has declared her place in the worship service is no different under grace than under law (Old Testament).

"Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law." I Cor. 14:34.

I would have you notice the words "as also saith the law." The Old Testament commanded that women be subject to their head, the man. The bringing in of the age of grace did not change her position, thus she is still under subjection to the men, and is therefore commanded to be silent in the church regardless of what the worship service may consist. The Old and New Testaments not only command that women be silent, but they also reveal why the imposition of silence was pronounced upon her: 1. Adam or man was created first. Read I Cor. 11:3-16. 2. The woman was deceived in the transgression. Read I Tim. 2:13-15. After the woman sinned in the Garden of Eden, God told her, "Thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over you." Since that imposition has

never been lifted, she is not to speak or address the church in any worship service.

The Holy Spirit knowing that man would raise the question as to women asking questions in order to further their knowledge of the Lord revealed that God's will was, "If they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church." — I Cor. 14:35. Brethren, this verse should answer any inquiry concerning women asking questions in the church. The Lord has spoken and "The scriptures cannot be broken." John 10:35. Therefore, the women cannot ask questions, but must wait until services are over and then ask her husband at home.

Though classes gather into different rooms, they are still in the assembly. The reason for this is — the church must and does appoint the teachers. She (church) divides the assembly into certain age groups, and she also designates what portion of the Scriptures are to be taught. Therefore, the women would still be a part of the assembly for the classes and not little bodies of their own with their own government, rather they are under the jurisdiction of the body of Christ (church). Again, may I refer to the work of the Holy Spirit in this age. From my study of His work, I am convinced that as the leader of all truth, He does not work outside of the church (Baptist). If the classes are not part of the assembly, I do not believe that He would bless them for each work that the Lord blesses He blesses through the church and not outside of her activities.

The Comforter has commanded women be silent forbidding her to teach or usurp authority over the man. Read I Tim. 2:12. He (Spirit) would never energize or lead one to go contrary to what He has written. As to how other sovereign grace churches carry out this teaching, I do not know, but as to the churches of which I am pastor, the women keep silent. They do not teach or speak in the assembly. All teaching, preaching and praying is done by the men.

**JAMES
HOBBS**

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



"Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law." (I Cor. 14:34).

The Bible is very clear in teaching that the women are to keep silent in the church. We know that the word "church" means the assembly. An assembly is the gathering together for the purpose of worship. Strictly speaking, when we dismiss to go to our classes we are not an assembly. I think, however, we are being ridiculous if we try to say that if it isn't an assembly we shouldn't do it. We dismiss under the authority of the church for the purpose of studying in groups by the authority of the church.

How should we govern the actions of men and women in this respect? By searching the Scriptures. When we have a mixed class, under the authority of the church — dismissed by the church for this purpose, we have a situation where the men are to teach.

"Let the women 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." (I Tim. 2:11, 12).

If they have a question about

the subject they must ask it when they are not under the authority of the church service. "And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church." (I Cor. 14:35).

If in the class we have younger children, or women only, then we can say that women are permitted to teach. "The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; that they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." (Titus 2:3-5).

When a woman does anything it is to be in such a way as to show complete subjection to her husband or to men. She is not to be in any position that would enable her to be in authority over men. If she performs her duties as a wife, teacher, and church member in this respect she will be blessed from God. Let us not restrict her from doing what she can and should do.

Two Sound Churches

(Continued from page one)

It was to see our dear brother, Gordon Buchanan and his wife and daughter again. Here, truly, is one of God's little giants in these dark days. Gordon is a very sound man, a very clean living man, and a very able preacher, and that is a great combination. I had not seen these folk for some time, and it greatly blessed my heart to see them again. Plans for our stay at a motel had fallen through that day, and so, the Buchanans graciously and royally provided lodging for all five of us for three days.

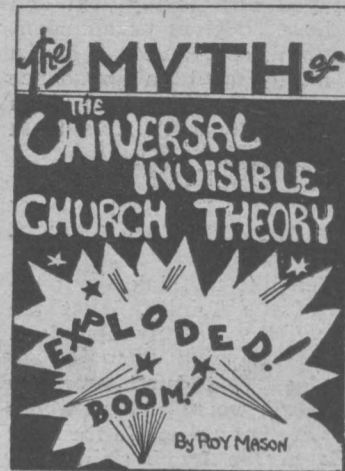
The West Griffin Baptist Church, pastored by Brother Buchanan, is truly a great church. Here is a church that stands for the truths of God's Word which the readers of TBE have learned to love. I would urge any readers of this paper, who live in the Griffin area, to visit this great church. Brother, it grieves me greatly, as I travel around the country, to meet people who talk long and loud about believing these great truths, and yet stay in Arminian and convention churches. There are surely a lot of folk who ought to "put up, or shut up." Why is it, that folk talk about loving the truth, then, with a sound church within traveling distance, they remain in some organization which, by their own admission, is not true to God's Word. I tell you this: Folk who are guilty of this are going to have to face it before the Lord some day.

This week-end meeting was designed especially for the discussion of prophetic themes. Brother Cockrell and I were assigned subjects that dealt with prophecy. I have studied much in this field due to recent controversy with dearly loved brethren over the time of the rapture relative to the tribulation. I feel that I have arrived at a proper and Scriptural conclusion. Brother Cockrell is surely one of the better qualified preachers in America today on the subject of prophecy. So we dealt with the themes of: The Terms Used, The Rapture, The Pre-Tribulation view of the Rapture, The Tribulation, The Judgment of Believers, The Millennium, Nations in Prophecy, and the Eternal State.

The Church was very much interested in these subjects. We had a most attentive and responsive audience. We had some special singing which blessed our hearts. The services were blessed with the presence and power of the Spirit of God, and those who expressed themselves, seemed greatly blessed by the services. It is always a joy to speak to folk who listen well, seem interested, and receive the spiritual food presented.

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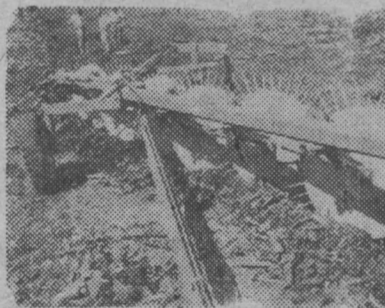
other places at these services. It was a real blessing to see friends of long standing from different places, and to meet new friends in the truths of God's Word. I met a brother of over 90 who was a real blessing to me, as I always am honored to meet an aged saint of the Lord.

The church provided royally for our meals, and I would almost compare the guests at this meeting with a certain rich man in the Bible as to their eating habits at this time. Sister Buchanan did a wonderful job as wife of the host pastor. She labored from early in the morning till late at night to make our stay a blessed experience. May the Lord richly bless this great pastor, his fine wife and daughter, and the great church there in their efforts to serve the Lord.

Feb. 3rd through the 9th was a wonderful week in my labors for the Lord. I was honored during this time to be the guest speaker at the King's Addition Baptist Church of South Shore, Ky. Most of the readers of this paper are acquainted with this great church in some way. Truly it is a great church. This church is the Mother church of Calvary Baptist Church, which blesses so many thousands with its ministry of sending out this great paper. This church is the Grandmother of the Grace Baptist Church in N.C., of which I was honored to be pastor for several years. Many lives and many churches have been blessed throughout the years by the ministry of the King's Addition Baptist Church.

(Continued on page 5, column 2)

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

MARCH 10, 1973

PAGE FOUR

ADAM'S RIB

WRITTEN BY A WOMAN
AND FOR WOMEN

"STRANGE VIGIL"

The sun was merciless during the day, and the wind tireless at night. The small form of a woman could be seen as she sits huddled against the rocks. Her name is Rizpah. She is dressed in sackcloth. Her tear streaked face is worn and tired. She is past tears now. She shades her face from the sun as she stares at a most gruesome sight. Close by, hanging from a tree are seven men's bodies. Two of these men are her sons. She leaps forward, grabbing her stick as she goes. "Away, Away" she shouts as she hits at the vultures circling the bodies. The foul stench of the decaying bodies are revolting and still she stays and watches and waits. She sleeps but little. The slightest sound arouses her and she drives away the beasts of the night that would devour the bodies. The rotting flesh drops to the ground and still she stays and watches. Keeping vigil. Her one consuming passion is to protect the bodies of her sons from the buzzards and wild animals until they could have a proper burial. The Bible says she was here from beginning of barley harvest until the rain came. (The Jews say this was about 6 months.) What were the events that brought this grief-stricken mother to such a macabre vigil?

Actually it started when the children of Israel were occupying the land. They were to destroy all the Canaanites. But one group, called the Gibeonites, tricked them. The Gibeonites pretended to be from a far country and not local folk. They wore tattered shoes and clothing. They carried moldy bread to show the Jews they had traveled a long way. The Jews vowed to them they would not kill them. Later, when the Israelites found out they had been tricked, they made the Gibeonites be their servants. They had to cut all the wood and carry all the water for the camp of Israel. (Joshua 9).

Later, when Saul became King, he wanted to show all Israel what a great warrior he was. He de-

cided to kill all the Gibeonites. And indeed, he did kill many of them. Perhaps King Saul thought that a vow made approximately 300 years before was not valid. What ever his reasoning, his misguided zeal resulted in the death of his two sons and five grandsons.

Now, even later, Saul and his son Jonathan have been killed in battle. There has been a famine in the land due to lack of rain for three consecutive years. David is king and finally inquires of the Lord the reason for the famine. The Lord reveals to David that this drought was because Saul had broken that vow to the Gibeonites. David goes immediately to the Gibeonites to see what he can do to right this terrible wrong. The Gibeonites did not want money, they wanted justice. Saul had killed many of their people and the only justice possible was that seven of Saul's sons should die. David agrees. He chooses Saul's two sons by Rizpah and five grandsons and the Gibeonites hanged them. (II Sam. 21).

This isn't a very pretty scene. The haunting picture of Rizpah keeping vigil over her dead is nauseous to our tender senses. Yet, many are the truths contained therein. "—visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation." "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, saith the Lord." "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for He hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldst not vow, than that thou shouldst vow and not pay." (Eccles. 5:4,5).

When the rains came, someone told King David about Rizpah's strange vigil. He had compassion on her and arranged for a proper burial for those hanged and also for Saul and Jonathan. Rizpah lived with Saul as his concubine, and bore his children. All she had to show for her life was one small grave.

Two Sound Churches

(Continued from page 4)

I had been with these fine folk in 1966, and looked forward with great delight to another visit in their midst. I can truly say that my expectations were fully met by the good meeting God gave us during this week.

It was my privilege to be the guest of Brother and Sister Carl Conley during the first part of

the week. These folk and their children have been my friends for many years. Here is a fine Christian family. Anyone is honored by being invited into this home, and blessed in being there. We had fine fellowship during this time, not only during the days, but at night, many folk from the meeting came by, and we had a fine time in the Lord.

I stayed the last part of the week with a truly noble preacher, James Hobbs. This brother has been very close to my heart for many years. We have enjoyed many hours of sweet fellowship around the Word of God during the years of our acquaintance. Once again, it was my privilege to be in this fine home. Brother Hobbs has a fine Christian family. His wife is a wonderful cook and a good hostess. We talked much of the things of the Lord during my visit here.

It was an added joy and blessing during this week to have fellowship with little Joe. He came

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upon Monday and stayed with us through the rest of the meeting. Only other preachers can know how much God's blessings upon Joe and his ministry mean to me. We had much debate over the question of who Joe came to see. I thought he came to see me. Hobbs thought he came to see him. Karen Pyle thought he came to see her. Well, I guess she was right, for during this week, they announced their engagement, and plan to be married in May. The Pyle family and I were very happy about this decision on their part. (Why shouldn't Pyle be happy?). Today, when so many of our youth are giving no thought to God in the matter of marriage, it is a blessing to see two fine, devoted young Christians plan to yoke their lives together, and serve God together. May God's blessings rest upon this union. So the House of Pyle and the House of Wilson are to be united—what a union that should be.

I don't know when I have been in a meeting where we had as many visitors as we did during this week. We truly thank God for the many visitors who came to this meeting from different churches. I would not attempt to name them all, as I would surely be embarrassed by forgetting some who blessed my heart by their presence. Several preachers attended these services. Other preachers will know how a preacher is always uplifted and encouraged by visiting preachers. I do truly thank God for the fine attendance we had during this week.

God seemed to help me greatly in the preaching during this week. Praise His name for that. Brethren, without God's blessing, we are weak as other men, and utterly unable to preach His Word to the blessing of our hearers. We could be most learned, and most eloquent (I am neither), but we would be helpless as a lisping child apart from the power of God. Knowing this — having learned it from many a failure — I am always grateful when God is pleased to seemingly bless my ministry. It was a wonderful au-

dience to which I preached. Folk who seemed to drink up the Word of God, rejoice in it, and come back for more. I know this meeting was a great blessing to me, and I feel that it was a time of blessing to the church. Many testified of the blessings they received during this time.

All too soon, the week was over. We had many new blessings to thank God for. I had met some new friends and become better acquainted with some old ones. But now I must leave. Will it not be a grand and glorious time when the children of God gather home never to part again? My good friend, and a great preacher, Don Pennington, came down for the closing service, and took me back to Covington, Ky. with him. Don and I have been very close in the Lord. It was truly a joy to spend a night and a day with these dear friends again. Also, it was a privilege to have a few minutes visiting with Clyde and Mildred Everman during a short day in this place.

I arrived home Saturday night — happy in having had another privilege to serve the Lord, rejoicing in the blessings of the Lord and thankful to be back with my family and with my great church in Tulsa, Okla. How good it always is to get back home. We love our friends around the country. We rejoice for a few days of blessing with them. But we are always glad to get back home again. Pray for the King's Addition Baptist Church, The West Griffin Baptist Church, the Grace Missionary Baptist Church of Tulsa, and for me. God bless you all.

Immortality

(Continued from Page One)
should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him . . . "Enoch was removed from this world to be with God. He was not found upon earth for he "withdrew to the Divinity" (Josephus, Antiquities 1:3, 4). The Greek word for "translated" in Hebrews 11:5 implies a sudden removal. This Greek word is translated "removed" in Galatians 1:6. Hebrews 11:5 makes it clear Enoch did not cease to exist. Instead, he was removed to be with God.

Soul Immortal

In Genesis 35:18 I read: "And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Ben-oni: but his father called him Benjamin."

Here the soul of Rachel is said to be departing. Her soul was not beginning a long sleep. It was departing to the spirit world. The Bible reveals that such departed souls did not forever remain in the paradise section of Sheol. Ps. 16:10 says: "For thou wilt not leave my soul in Hell (Sheol)."

Spirits United Together in Paradise

The Old Testament teaches that the spirits of the righteous were

gathered at death together in companionship. Of Abraham it is said: "Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people" (Gen. 25:8).

Soul sleepers try to make this mean that Abraham was buried in the same graveyard with his fathers. But Abraham's family burial plot was in Chaldea. His father was buried in Haran.

Aaron was "gathered unto his people," yet he was buried with them (Num. 20:23-24). Of Joshua's generation it is said: "And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers" (Judges 2:10).

The generation which preceded them perished in the wilderness, and the previous generation died in Egypt. These expressions can only mean that the spirits of these departed ones were united in the paradise section of Sheol. All these did not cease to exist at death, for non-existence cannot be gathered anywhere.

Moses Appeared After Death

Moses did not cease to exist at death. He re-appeared after death and was with Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:3). How could this be if the spirit is not alive and conscious after the death of the body?

The Spirit Of Samuel

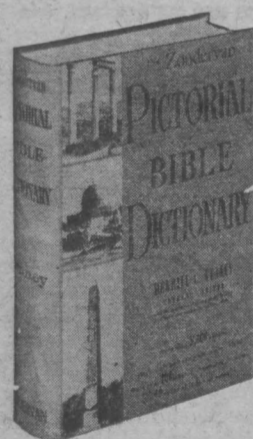
King Saul went to the witch of Endor and asked her to raise up the spirit of Samuel. To her surprise God did just that (I Sam. 28:12). I Samuel 28:15 reads: "And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up?" The record of the Divine chronicle makes it perceptive that the spirit of Samuel was brought up from the paradise section of Sheol.

Samuel told King Saul: "Tomorrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me" (I Sam. 28:19). Samuel did not say that tomorrow Saul and his sons would be dead like he was. Nor did he say they would be put in the same cemetery. He did not say that they would be together in the resurrection some day far removed from Saul's time. Samuel said that Saul and his sons would be with him the next day. Since Saul and his sons died in battle the next day, the only way they could be with Samuel was for their immortal disembodied spirits to meet in Paradise.

David's Child

The child born to David and Bathsheba died shortly after its birth. Upon being informed of this sad event, David said: "But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me" (II Sam. 12:23). He expected to see his child at his death when his spirit was brought into the presence of the child's spirit in Paradise. David did not believe his child had ceased to exist. He believed its spirit was still alive in another world, a world where his (Continued on page 6, column 1)

BIBLE DICTIONARIES



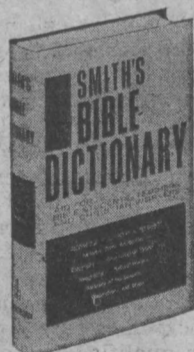
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Immortality

(Continued from page 5)
spirit would go at death.

Immortal Heart

The word heart is sometimes used in the place of the word soul. When it is so used in certain passages, it denotes the immortal part of a man. In Psalm 22:26 it is written: "Your heart shall live for ever." An improved translation of Ecclesiastes 3:11 reads: "He hath set eternity in their heart." These statements make no sense if man does not have an immortal part which does not die when the body does.

The Psalmist said: "Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee" (Ps. 73:24-25). The Psalmist did not expect to come to an unconscious state at death. Instead, he expected the Lord to receive his spirit to the glory world. In Psalm 23:4 he spoke of walking "through the valley of the shadow of death," not ceasing to exist in this valley. In Psalm 23:6 he discloses his hope of God's mercy being with him all the days of his life. After the end of his life, he looked forward to dwelling "in the house of the Lord for ever." He had no expectation of sleeping in the graveyard until the resurrection.

Everlasting Objects Of God's Love

God's love to his people is said to be everlasting: "I have loved thee with an everlasting love" (Jer. 31:3). If the spirits of the Lord's beloved ceases to be at death, then there would be no objects of His love. Then death would separate us from the love of God, yet Paul said: "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life . . . shall be able to separate us from the love of God . . ." (Rom. 8:38-39).

Cannot Kill The Soul

Jesus Christ said: "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matt. 10:28). If a body that can be killed is mortal, then a soul which cannot be killed must be immortal. Jesus makes it clear in Matthew 10:28 that a soul is not subject to physical death. The enemies of Christians can only kill the body. If the soul fell asleep at death, then the killing of the body would be the killing of the soul.

Is God Of Abraham

Our Lord declared: "I am the God of Abraham, and the God of

Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living" (Matt. 22:32). The verb is in the present tense, not the past. Almighty God said: "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." He did not say: "I was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob," but rather implies in this direct statement that these patriarchs are as eternal as God Himself. Since He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and since he is not a God of the dead, this can only be said if the spirits of these three survived after the death of their bodies.

Lazarus And The Rich Man

It is written in Luke 16:22-23: "And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom." The rich man and Lazarus did not cease to live at death. Lazarus's spirit went to Abraham's bosom. The spirit of Dives went to Hell while his body was buried upon earth.

Luke 16 relates how Abraham reminded the rich man of Moses and the prophets (Luke 16:29-31). How did Abraham know about Moses and the prophets? He died five hundred years before Moses was born. There is only one sensible explanation. The spirit of Moses had told the spirit of Abraham of all of this in Paradise.

Penitent Thief

While on the cross Christ said to the dying thief: "Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). If we believe the testimony of God's Word, we must believe that the spirit of Christ and the spirit of the thief went to Paradise the day that their bodies died. Their bodies remained upon the crosses they were on all that day. It could have only been their spirits which went to Paradise that day. No fancy twisting can ever make this passage say that the thief went fast to sleep and knew nothing.

Absent From The Body

The Apostle Paul said: "We are confident, I say, and willing to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord" (II Cor. 5:8). If Paul believed that his soul would become unconscious at death, what did he mean by the expression, "to be absent from the body?" Could he be absent from the body and asleep in the body at the same time? Anyone can see that Paul is saying that to be exile from the body is to be at home with the Lord.

He told the Philipians: "For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better" (Phil. 1:23).

In The Body Or Out

Paul was caught up into Paradise and heard unspeakable words. Concerning this experience he wrote: "Whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell" (II Cor. 12:3). If the spirit cannot live without a body, then Paul would not have said what he did.

Spirit Of Wicked Under Punishment

It is written in II Peter 2:9 these words: "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished." The Revised Version renders the last expres-

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sion in this verse: "To keep them under punishment." This means that the wicked are now undergoing punishment in their soulish bodies while unclothed of their natural bodies.

I Peter 3:20 speaks of the "spirits in prison." The bodies of these people must be dead since they lived in the day of Noah. It is the immortal spirits which survived their bodies that are in prison. A non-entity cannot be anywhere, for to be is to exist.

Sodom And Gomorrah

In Jude 7 we learn that the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah "are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." The word for suffering in this verse is a present participle, and a present participle expresses progressive, durative action. And that it is not a historical present is shown by the present tense of the verb "are set forth." Since the bodies of these inhabitants were burned up in fire, it must be their immortal spirits that have been suffering from the time of the first visitation of Divine wrath.

Souls In Heaven

It is written in Revelation 6:9-11 these inspired words: "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."

Here we see some bodies which are slain, and some souls which are in Heaven. According to these verses, the souls of the martyrs are not sleeping in the dust of the earth. They are in a conscious condition in Heaven. They cry with a loud voice, thus exercise the conscious intelligence that functions in speech. They have soulish bodies, for white robes are given unto them. By an examination of Revelation 7:9-10, we see that the spirits of these are before God's throne. They are not subject to common tragedies of

earth such as hunger and thirst.

Hebrews On Immortality

In Hebrews 11:13 we are told that Abraham and Sarah died. After this I read: "But now they desire a better country, that is an heavenly . . ." (Heb. 11:16). This proves the immortality of their spirits, since unconscious spirits could not desire a better country.

Hebrews 12:23 speaks of a heavenly assembly of "the spirits of just men made perfect." The spirits of the departed saints are here seen to have gone to Heaven. They have reached their destiny, and they await the more entire perfection of the resurrection. These spirits could not be said to be perfect, if they were unconscious and lifeless.

Where would you go if you died this very minute? Would your soul go to Hell or Heaven? If you have not had an experience of grace, your soul would go to the torments of Hell fire. If you have had an experience of grace, your soul would go directly to be with Christ.

Epistle Of James

(Continued from page two)

ed into mourning . . ." — James 4:9.

I've done a little trading in my time, especially with knives. The passage before us, however, admonishes us to trade carnal laughter for godly mourning. It will be found that this is an excellent trade, since carnal laughter carries no reward with it, while godly mourning carries an everlasting reward with it. You, therefore, should never feel cheated when you are called upon to make such an exchange. It is much better deal than one would receive by trading a rat for a cow or a hoe for a tractor and plow.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, that ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy" — John 16:20.

" . . . and your joy into heaviness" — James 4:9.

Carnal joy, as far as the flesh is concerned, is light and easy to carry. It is that kind of company which the flesh delights in. However, James admonishes the carnal believer to consider his carnal joy as an obstruction rather than a blessing — consider it a heavy weight rather than a feather.

The word "heaviness" denotes dejection. You will recall that the Publican (Luke 18:13) portrayed heaviness of heart in that he "would not lift up his eyes to

heaven." Our sins should also lay heavy upon our hearts until we have repented of them and confessed them to the Father. It is then and then only, that we should be joyful, or full of joy.

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord and He shall lift you up" — James 4:10.

One humbles himself when he takes all the blame for his sins. The humble do not sweep their sins under the carpet, but they acknowledge the wrong done and are deeply affected by it. Words and tears mean nothing if our will is still proud and arrogant. Adam sinned and displayed a lack of humility when he blamed his sin on Eve. We are also prone to lay our sins to this or that cause, but God would have us to be humble and take all the blame that is due us.

" . . . in the sight of the Lord . . ."

The name "Lord" refers to He who has power and authority. He is our Master, and it is in His sight that we are to "humble" ourselves. He is excellent in power, knowledge, justice, and every other part of His being; therefore, may we humble ourselves in His sight. He stilled the angry waves, turned the water into wine, raised Lazarus from the dead, plus a host of other things; proving that He is Lord and Master of all; therefore, humble yourselves in His sight.

" . . . and He shall lift you up" — James 4:10.

This is not an empty and worthless promise, but one that is backed by the Lord Himself. The promise has His royal stamp upon it, therefore, "He shall lift you up." The humble may be down, but not for long, in view of the fact that He will soon lift them up.

"For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" — Luke 14:11.

" . . . and He shall lift you up" — James 4:10.

The humble, at the end of this life, will be lifted up by way of the rewards that He will heap upon them. These are they who have not learned to their own understanding, but have, through the Word and the power of God the Spirit, sought diligently to learn His way and to walk in it. These are they who are truly humble, or they who are proud of the Lord's grace and achievements rather than their own.

He, whose arms upheld Daniel in the lion's den, Joseph in Egypt, the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace, David before Goliath and a host of others, can and will lift up the humble.

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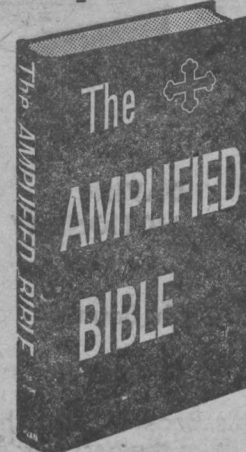
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Fred T. Halliman (Continued from page one)

membership and attend the services regularly. I do not believe folk ought to sacrifice the truth and join just any kind of a Baptist church (mind you there are no other churches insofar as the Lord is concerned), just for the sake of membership in a church close by.

I seriously doubt if there is anyone that believes in the doctrine of the church, as is taught in the Scriptures, any more than I do. At the same time I do not take the church out of its Scriptural setting and worship the church at the expense of my dear Saviour. In my last couple of visits back to America I have detected a trend, of otherwise sound Baptists, to make an idol of the church and worship the church more than they do the Lord who bought it with His own blood. Please note that I am using the word "church" in its institutional sense. I firmly believe in the local, visible church.

Listed below are some reasons why I believe you ought to have your membership in nothing but a Baptist Church.

I
Baptist Are The Only Churches That Can Be Traced to New Testament Days.

Let us assume that some one or more that reads this has been

truly born again but as yet you have not united with any church. It is possible that you may have heard enough truth in some heretical organization, in spite of all the error they teach, and have been saved. The Lord does not specify that you have to be in a Baptist Church in order to be saved, although you will have to go to a Baptist church before you can learn all the truth of God's Word.

We are living in a day of "Ecumenical Evangelism." The Billy Graham type of evangelist goes to and fro over the country and after people make professions of faith, then they are told to join the church of their choice. If as the Lord says, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit . . ." (John 15:16), and if we, ". . . are not our own," but have been ". . . bought with a price . . ." (I Cor. 6:19-20), then we have no choice but will join the church that Jesus built.

Therefore, if you have been saved and are still "shopping around" for a church where you can place your membership, I can save you a lot of trouble. The first thing you should do is to mark off your list every religious organization under the sun except a Baptist church (many of them you can mark off also but we will deal with that later). Secondly, I would like to challenge you to be a Berean (Acts 17:10-11) and search the Scriptures and see whether the things that I tell you are so.

Now let us briefly look at some Scriptures that, if studied with an unbiased and unprejudiced mind will lead you to the truth if you are saved.

The Prophecy by Isaiah

Beloved, you can search the Scriptures in vain but you will not find the remotest hint to a Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Campbellite or any of the balance of the so-called churches today. But 700 years before the first Baptist came upon the scene the Lord announced his coming. "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God . . . and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." (Isa. 40:3-5).

It seems to me that for the Lord to announce the coming of the first Baptist approximately 700 years in advance, this was something of tremendous importance. It was important for John was to baptize Jesus (Matt. 3:13-17), the apostles (Acts 1:21-22), and the members of the first Baptist church (I Cor. 12:28).

The Prophecy of Malachi

Just to impress upon you the importance that God puts upon Baptists, please note that some 300 years after Isaiah prophesied of the coming of John the Baptist that God spoke through another of His prophets about the same event. "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the

Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: Behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts." (Mal. 3:1).

New Testament Fulfillment of This Prophecy

No mere human being could have even guessed that these things would happen even as little as a few months or years before, apart from Divine inspiration. But listen to this New Testament passage. "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, and saying, Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias (Isaiah), saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight" (Matt. 3:1-3).

There is just one other thing, at this time, that I would like to establish by Scripture concerning John the Baptist and that is that Baptist was not his name. It is a common theory that Baptist was part of John's name. There is only one thing wrong with that — it is just not so. On the day that John was circumcized they tried to name him

for a man. He simply produced one and that without another human parent. So when the Lord got ready for the first Baptist He also made him and that without any previous Baptist. The fact remains that John was the first Baptist and from him all others have come.

To those of you who may have been saved but are unchurched as yet, I have gone to some length to show you why you ought to discard any notion that you may have to join anything other than a Baptist church. There simply are no other churches to join — all the rest are man-made organizations, and, "Every plant which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up" (Matt. 15:13).

When we refer to Baptist churches as the only churches that the Lord has established, it will be readily understood that we make no reference to salvation for there is all the difference in the world in salvation and church membership. For a detailed clarification of this let me refer you to Bro. Joe Wilson's article in TBE, December 9, 1972, "Will There Be Anybody In Heaven Besides Baptists."

II

Some Reasons Why You Should Have Your Membership In Only A Sound Baptist Church.

When I was a boy I only knew of three groups that went by the name Baptist. They were Missionary Baptist, Hardshell Baptist, and Freewill Baptist. But now I could name you groups that run well into two figures that lay claim to being Baptist. In borrowing a thought from Paul when he said, "For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel," I say to you today that "They are not all Baptists which claim to be Baptists."

I do not mean to imply that unless you belong to a church that would subscribe to everything that I do that it is not a Baptist Church. There were lots of errors in some of the New Testament Churches, but they were still Baptist Churches. Please read carefully the second and third chapters of Revelation and you will observe that the Lord does not put His approval upon churches that are slack on any part of His Word, even to the point of removing the candlestick, (their authority to be a Baptist church) if they do not repent of their slackness.

You ought to be a member of a sound Baptist Church because:

1. This is the only place you can honor the Lord.

Try though you may, the hard facts are, you will never be able to honor your Lord in a church that compromises on any part of the Word of God. You may be attending a church where the pastor preaches with all the power he can muster, he may be getting "results" every Sunday, the church may be in a continual building program in order to meet the needs to accommodate the ever swelling crowds, and yet, if he compromises on the Word of God, you are not honoring the Lord by having your membership

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there. Beloved, one of these days you are going to have to give an account of your worship and the way you have handled your church membership, to the Lord. Just as He required an accounting of the Jews of old He is going to require the same from us. One day the Lord said to the Jews, ". . . if then I be a father, where is mine honor?" (Mal. 1:6).

2. This is the only place you should pay your tithes.

Whether lost or saved, the Lord requires at least a tithe (tenth) of all income. "And ALL the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord" (Lev. 27:30).

Your tithe does not belong to some Radio Evangelist, orphans home, the Red Cross nor any one of a hundred other institutions that are helpful to man. But since the tithe is the Lord's it should be paid into one of His New Testament churches. You cannot honor the Lord with your tithe if you are putting it into a church that is unsound. Your tithe ought to go where you have your membership, therefore, the more the necessity of having your membership in a sound church.

(Continued on page 8, column 1)

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Zacharias. "And his mother answered and said, Not so, but he shall be called John" (Luke 1:60). Reluctant to accept what Elizabeth had said about his name they asked his father, Zacharias. "And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John" (Luke 1:63). In the gospel according to John and verse six we read, "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John."

Having a message from God made him a preacher (Matt. 3:1-2). Being sent from God made him a missionary (John 1:6). Believing and obeying God's Word, would, of necessity, make Baptist his belief rather than his name. Therefore we have a Missionary Baptist preacher, preparing the material for the first Baptist church.

A modern day Pharisee thought he had me trapped beyond escape one day on my argument that John was the first Baptist. Most people will insist that Jesus was the first Baptist, inasmuch as we argue that before you can be a Baptist you must be baptized. You are not made a Baptist by simply being saved or by reading the Bible but you become a Baptist the moment you are baptized. How then do you account for the fact that John was a Baptist having never been baptized.

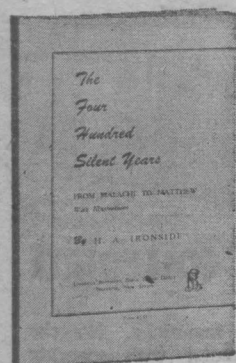
In the first place can anyone prove that John was not baptized? I cannot. All things are possible with God. I am not saying that John was baptized but I am saying that just because it is not mentioned in the Bible does not prove to me that he was not baptized by the Lord himself or some other agent directed by the Lord. Many things are true and actually happened concerning the things of the Lord that are not recorded by the Holy Spirit (John 21:55). However, be that as it may, when the Lord got ready

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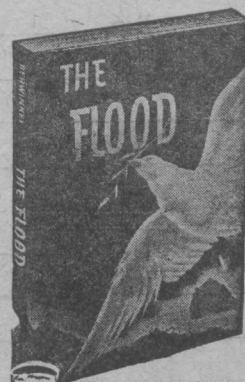
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PAGE SEVEN

Fred T. Halliman

(Continued from page seven)

3. Because of the soon return of our Lord.

I do not believe anyone in his right mind would prefer to be in an unsound, compromising church when the Lord returns. "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief" (I Thess. 5:1-4).

Every sign that the Bible gives is now pointing to the near return of our blessed Lord. Oh, glorious day when He comes. In view of this I ask you to stop right now and take stock of where you have your membership. You are a definite part of the body where you have your membership and to be united with a group that is everything but

sound, whether you personally approve of what goes on or not, makes you a supporter of heresy. Please be honest with your own conscience. Would you want to be in that type when the Lord comes?

At this point I would like to share with you an excerpt of a letter that I have recently received from a person. (Quote): "We do not have a good church in our area but we still keep hoping that there will be one. There is a new church being organized in town close to us . . . and we have been going there, with an eye to perhaps becoming members, until I found out that the pastor does not believe in Limited Atonement and Irresistible Grace. I couldn't subscribe to any doctrine other than that. I cannot understand how anyone can profess to accept the other three points and not those two. So, I have thought twice about joining that church. I would really like to belong to a church such as Bro. Gilpin's but I think they are few and far between." (unquote).

Beloved, this is only one of many letters of this type that I

receive. Here is a person that knows and believes the truth, has not a sound church close enough to go to, is most desirous of having a church home close by but refuses to compromise on the Lord's Word in order to do so. A further word from this person in a more recent letter, (quote): "When I first saw the flyer announcing it was being formed (the new church F.T.H.), 'pre-millennial, fundamental and missionary,' I thought how wonderful it would be to finally have a church to attend. I know that I would never be content in the new church that is being organized as it is now" (unquote).

In view of the soon return of our dear Lord, let me urge you to make every effort possible to place your membership in a sound Baptist church.

4. Because of the Bride of Christ.

The common theory is, including many so-called Baptist, that every Christian will be in the Bride of Christ. There is only one thing wrong with this statement — it is just not so. There isn't a single Scripture nor any combination of them that even remotely suggest that all saved persons will make up the bride. It is simply wishful thinking on the part of ignorant preachers and their congregations whom they have taught this error. In two swipes we can clearly eliminate this theory. The Bride of Christ will only be made up of the Lord's Church, therefore since He had no church prior to His personal appearance upon the earth, no Old Testament saints will be included in the Bride. Secondly, since the Lord only established one kind of church and since it is an established fact both by the Scriptures, and by history, that this was a Baptist church, of necessity all Christians of this age except Baptist must be ruled out. It's just that simple.

We will go a step further and say that the Lord's Bride will not be made up of all professing Baptists. I am not prepared to say how many Baptists will be in the bride but I make no reservations in saying that a Bible denying, man pleasing, compromising Baptist will have about the same opportunity of being in the Lord's Bride as an atheist will of going to heaven. Therefore it is imperative that if you desire to be in the Bride of Christ that you cast your lot with a church that stands for the whole truth of God's Word.

Last year, a lady began a correspondence with me that had not had membership in a church for several years. Being an elderly lady and no sound church close by where she could put her membership she refused to put it anywhere. Realizing that her days were coming to a close here upon this earth one of these days she began to be deeply concerned about going on to meet the Lord unchurched which would mean that she would not be in the Bride of Christ. Somehow she felt led to write to me and we began a discussion of how this could be overcome. I suggested that she write to Bro. Gilpin and the Calvary Baptist Church at Ashland and discuss membership there. This she did and in due time became a member there. Not so long ago this dear lady wrote to me and thanked me for the help I had been to her and said that since being a member of Calvary Baptist Church she had been blessed immeasurably.

If you are unchurched or have your membership in a church that is definitely unsound, let me urge you to do something about it if you want to be in the Bride of Christ.

There could be many more reasons given why one should have membership in a sound church and we have only touched on those that have been given but our purpose in this article is not to go into all the finer points of why, but rather, to try to awaken you to the fact of the necessity

of proper church membership. Before bringing this article to a close, I would like to briefly point out a few things that I consider that it takes to make up a sound Baptist church.

1. A church must preach salvation by grace, apart from any works, to be a sound church. A church that spends half an hour preaching on election and then spends another hour trying to pray sinners through is not only unsound but inconsistent as well.

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Jesus said, I have finished the work; therefore there is no work that anyone can do that will produce a child of God. The flesh profiteth nothing.

2. A church that receives alien baptism is definitely unsound. Any form of baptism performed by any other than sound Baptists is alien to the Word of God.

3. A church that does not use the elements of wine and unleavened bread in the Lord's Supper and/or practices open communion is unsound and could not attract my membership.

4. A church that does not believe in, preach and practice missions both at home and abroad can lay no claims to being one of the Lord's churches. Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8 and many others.

5. A church that does not believe in the virgin birth of our Lord is by no means sound, and a Baptist has no business in a church like this.

6. A church that lets the women take over the services or even so much as give testimonies, teach mixed Sunday School Classes, etc., is unsound to the Word of God. "Let your women keep silent in the churches, for it is not permitted unto them to speak." (I Cor. 14:34). If God said it, why not obey it.

7. A Church that joins in union meetings with other denominations, sunrise services, Easter parades, Christmas parties and/or joint evangelistic campaigns

only to mention a few, is definitely unsound to the Word of God. "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you." (II Cor. 6:17).

8. A church that preaches church salvation (I know of some professing Baptists that have arrived at this stage), therefore putting the church before Christ, that puts the millennium before the rapture, everyone in a general resurrection followed by a general judgment, in my opinion is far out in left field.

Beloved, these are only a few things that I consider that it takes to make a sound church but these should serve as guide lines if you are interested in knowing the truth and placing your membership in a church that practices such things.

Then the question will probably come to your mind, "But where could I find such a church?" I am aware of the fact that such churches are not on every street corner nor on very many of them for that matter. However, they do exist. The Lord promised perpetuity of His churches and if I could not believe that I could not trust Him for my salvation.

Let me suggest than anyone that is interested and concerned enough to have membership in a sound Baptist Church, and if there is none close enough for you to place your membership where you live and can attend, that you write to my pastor, Brother John R. Gilpin and explain your situation to him and if you can qualify, having been born again and having had Scriptural

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baptism, or having been saved and willing to receive Scriptural baptism, then petition the Calvary Baptist Church for membership. I do not mean to imply that this is the only sound church in America, but I do know that it is one of the sound churches in America and I know of none any sounder. You may feel that this church would be too far away for you to have membership with. Are you more than 12,000 miles away from Ashland, Kentucky? I am and I do not feel that it is too far away to be able to have my membership there. In fact, I count it a real privilege to be a member of Calvary Baptist Church. May the Lord bless each of you is my prayer.

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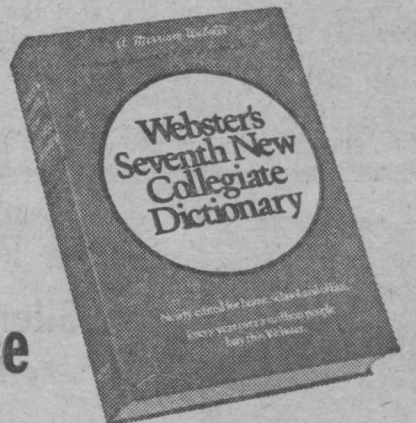
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