

The Baptist Examiner

Baptist Is Our Middle Name

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"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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WHY AREN'T YOU A BAPTIST?

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

The subject before us is of great importance to each of us. Its importance can be seen more clearly when we consider that the Scriptures were written to and for the Lord's churches. This fact is clearly seen by observing the following passages.

"To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: grace to YOU and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ" — Romans 1:7.

"UNTO THE CHURCH of God which is at Corinth to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: grace be unto YOU and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ" — I Cor. 1:2,3.

"Paul, an Apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, UNTO THE CHURCH of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints that

are in all Achaia"—II Cor. 1:1.

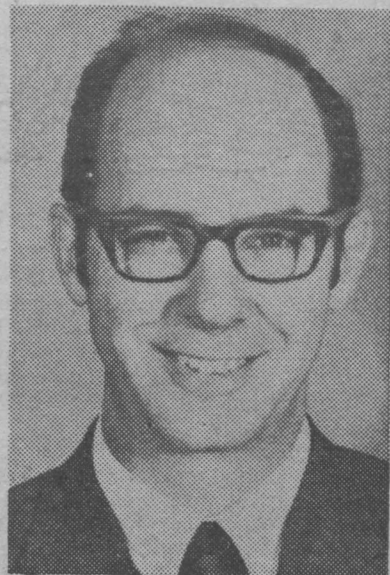
"Paul, an Apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead); and all the brethren which are with me, UNTO THE CHURCHES of Galatia: grace be to YOU, and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ" — Gal. 1:1-3.

"John to the SEVEN CHURCHES which are in Asia: grace be unto YOU, and peace, from Him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before His throne"—Rev. 1:4.

There are many other passages which we could cite, but the above passages make it very obvious that God's Word was written to and for His churches. The Word was written to individuals only to the degree that it is their guide relative to how they are to conduct themselves in the Lord's church.

A father and his son are usually very close together. They, in fact, are so close that he who honors the son also honors the

father. The same is true of a husband and his wife, or a father and his daughter. This fact is even more true of the Lord and His church — the church He built before He left the earth — the church which is the "pillar and ground" of the truth which He has proclaimed. The Lord Jesus left the church as His representative in this dark world. He left no other representative, there-



WILLARD WILLIS

What Part Will You Have In The Marriage Of The Lamb?

By MILBURN COCKRELL
Fulton, Mississippi

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb" (Rev. 19:7-9).

In the New Testament the relation between Christ and the church is presented under the fig-

fit for a heavenly people. The speakers in Revelation 19 are said to be "much people in Heaven" (Rev. 19:1). While the earth is in the worst part of the Great Tribulation, Heaven will be rejoicing as the marriage bells ring!

When will the marriage take place? According to chronological order in Revelation, it will be after the destruction of the Great Whore (Rev. 19:1-6) and before the Battle of Armageddon (Rev. 19:11-21). The marriage will follow the Bema of Christ, inasmuch as when the woman appears she appears in "the righteousness of the saints" (Rev. 19:8).

The bride has "made herself ready" by the Judgment Seat of Christ. The fine linen in which the wife is clothed is not the imputed righteousness of Christ. Instead it is the righteous acts and works of the saints themselves. The righteous acts of the saints which stand the fiery test of the Bema of Christ shall make up the beautiful wedding garment in which the bride shall be arrayed.

The Bridegroom

The inspired Apostle John (Continued on page 3, column 4)



MILBURN COCKRELL

ure of a bride and a bridegroom. At the Rapture Christ comes as a bridegroom (Matt. 25:1-13) to take His heavenly bride unto Himself. Then that relationship that was pledged over 1900 years ago will be consummated and the two will become one. The church is not yet the Lamb's wife. She at present is the bride-elect. She is engaged to be married to Christ after the Rapture and the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Where And When?

Where will the Marriage of the Lamb take place? It must be in Heaven for no other location is

"I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth."—Num. 24:17.

"Saying, Where is he that is born, King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over

fore, those who are not members of His representative do not and cannot represent Him. We may go further and declare that the church is so close to the Master's heart that those who reject His church, reject Him.

Our Lord, when He was here in person, was the pillar and ground of the truth. There was gross error all around Him, but (Continued on page 7, column 3)

TEXAS CHURCH IS SEEKING FOR A PASTOR

Bethel Baptist Church of McCamey, Texas, is seeking for a pastor.

It is not a large church, but there are a number of good folk there who love the truth. Whoever becomes pastor there, in all probability, would have to work to supplement the salary paid by the church.

It is possible somewhere there is a preacher who might be interested in becoming pastor of this church. If so, we invite you to write today to Brother John H. Harris, Bethel Baptist Church, Box 348, McCamey, Texas 79752.

Burket Tells Of Proposed Trip To Penna. and Churches

WILLIAM BURKET
Chinle, Arizona

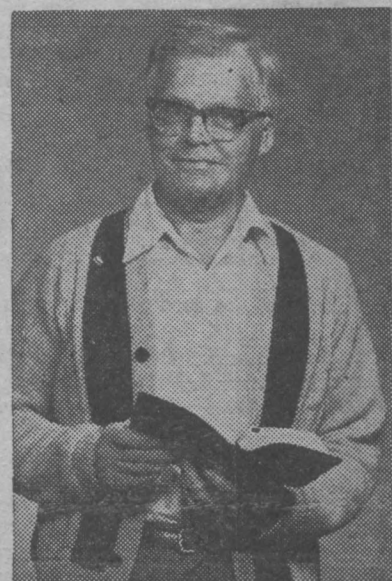
Dear friends:

By the time you receive this report, my wife and I will probably be on our way to Pennsylvania, the state of our nativity. It is five years since we left there to come to Navajoland to try to start a church or churches in which the Lord Jesus Christ will receive glory. It has been a really trying time, and the consummation of such a worthy cause seems about as remote as ever. But by God's grace, I want to be faithful to the Lord and "the faith which was once delivered unto the saints," until Jesus comes.

We feel that the Lord might be willing, at this time, for us to take a leave of absence to visit our friends and relations in Pennsylvania. We also hope to visit the Lord's churches along the way to Pennsylvania, who have so faithfully supported our ministry to the Indians; and also, we hope to return by way of Kentucky, and to spend at least one week with the brethren and fellow members of Calvary Baptist Church at Ashland. From there, we hope to visit with churches as far south as northern Florida, returning through Georgia and going on to Tulsa, Okla., to be there for the Bible Conference over Labor Day.

In Pennsylvania, it will be good to see relatives and friends once more. But at best, these are fleshly or Babylonian church ties or friends. I believe, the better

blessing will be to fellowship among the Lord's churches along the way. How much better it is, to fellowship with the sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father than to be in the company of them who know Him not, or who will not come out from among them to be separate. As the Lord saved me out of the most blas-



BILL BURKET

phemous form of Christianity, Roman Catholicism — and as I have tried Protestantism, and found it very much wanting — now, I would not want the Lord to return or call me to be with Him, while I was affiliated with even Protestant Baptists. I think of the words of the good man in (Continued on page 8, column 1)

Women's Lib: Freedom Exchanged For Slavery

By JOE WILSON
Tulsa, Oklahoma

"Be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."—Gal. 5:1.

It was a strange and foolish thing, when the Galatians desired to exchange the freedom of the gospel of Christ for the bondage of the law. It was a strange thing when the children of Israel murmured against God, and desired to give up their God-given liberty and return to the bondage of Egypt. Surely, it is a strange thing when women desire to give up the liberty of their God-given privileges of womanhood and place themselves in the slavery to sin, to the devil, and to a place God never intended for them — a place God did not prepare for them, nor prepare them for filling. Truly, Women's Lib is a revolt against God, against the Bible, and against the very nature that God has given to women.

Women's Lib is most definitely Communist inspired. There is too much proof of this for anyone to deny. Communists know that the strength of a nation is in its to write today to Brother John H. Harris, Bethel Baptist Church, Box 348, McCamey, Texas 79752.

the home. So Communists are leading the Women's Lib movement in an effort to get women out of the home, out of their God-given place of subjection to and dependence upon the man, and thus destroy the home, and thus destroy America. Communists have published their plans for the women, and Communist women have often led in the so-called Lib movement.

Women's Lib is against the Bible. No woman or man can be in favor of Women's Lib and be a believer in the Bible. The two are eternally incompatible. I do not care what claims might be made, or what pretended church



JOSEPH M. WILSON

leaders take part in this movement, it is contrary to the Word of God. The Bible does not place woman on an equal rights program with the man. God gave man the priority in that He created man first, and then created Eve to be a help meet for man — not a ruler over man and not equal with man, but the Divinely given helper of the man. So Women's Lib is an act or rebellion against the creative act of God Almighty. The helper is not equal to nor over the one being helped. "Help meet" protests against equality.

The Bible teaches that man is (Continued on page 5, column 3)

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor John R. Gilpin

"A STAR OUT OF JACOB"

"I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth."—Num. 24:17.

"Saying, Where is he that is born, King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over

where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."—Mt. 2:2,9,10.

"I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star."—Rev. 22:16.

In order that we might get a background for these three texts of Scripture, I would like for us to go back and study the context immediately preceding this first

text in the book of Numbers. The children of Israel were traveling from the land of Egypt over into the land of Canaan, it requiring them forty years to make the journey. They had to pass through various countries, particularly the land of Moab, and as they drew near to the land of Moab, Balak, the king of Moab, realizing that he was no match for the Israelites and realizing that the only way that he was to get victory over them would be by some super- (Continued on page 2, column 1)

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JOHN R. GILPIN.....Editor

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"A Star"

(Continued from page one)

natural power, sent for Balaam, who was supposed to be a prophet of God, and asked Balaam to put a curse on the children of Israel.

I might say in passing that I rather think of Balaam as a saved man. To be sure, he was one of those borderline cases. It would be hard to say whether Balaam knew the Lord or not, but I am rather of the opinion that Balaam was a believer even back in those dark days, for when he was invited by Balak's servants to pronounce a curse upon the children of Israel, he immediately refused to go. That in itself would lead me to believe that Balaam was a saved man in view of the fact that he put the honor of God above the praise of men — even above the money which Balak's servants offered to him.

Then at a later date, Balak sent more honorable servants unto Balaam and asked him if he would not reconsider and come to him post-haste and pronounce a curse upon the children of Israel. Then it was that Balaam answered:

"If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the Lord my God, to do less or more." — Num. 22:18.

Here was a man in the long ago who had a greater respect for the Word of God than a lot of Baptists have today. He went on to say that it didn't make any difference how much money, or how high the honors, or how great the remuneration that Balak might give him, he could not go beyond the Word of the Lord — as if to say that the Word of God was definitely final so far as his life was concerned. Would to God that he had made it as such! However, Balaam did the fatal thing. He tarried, and he parleyed with temptation. He knew what God's will was for his life, but he parleyed with the temptation and he said to these servants of Balak, "Wait until tomorrow and let me pray about it tonight to see what the Lord tells me to do." The next day God gave him permission to make the journey to Balak. It wasn't God's expressed will, and it wasn't God's declared will, but it was God's permissive will, in that He allowed Balaam to have his own way for the time being.

When Balaam met Balak, it wasn't long until he learned what Balak desired of him. He said, "I want you to put a curse on these people. I am no match for them. I can't meet them in battle. If they desire to cross my country, I can not withstand them. The only way that I can meet them is for you to pronounce a curse upon them." Then they went up,

upon a mountain, and as Balaam looked out in the distance, the Word of God tells us that he saw the utmost part of the camp, for we read:

"That thence he might see the utmost part of the people." — Num. 22:41.

The word "utmost" means a fourth part of the camp, and from where Balaam and Balak stood on the mountain top, all that they could see was one-fourth of the camp. As they stood there, Balak, on tip-toe with expectancy desiring that Balaam should pronounce a curse on these whom he thought to be his enemies—Balak stood, expecting that message of Balaam to be a blessing and a benediction in his behalf, but a malediction and a curse upon the children of Israel. As they stood there, Balaam lifted his voice and pronounced as great a blessing upon the children of Israel as would have been possible to be given. I rather imagine old Balak stood there in chagrin and consternation and said, "Wait a minute, brother. That is not the kind of preaching that I am paying you to do. Evidently you didn't see this crowd like I want you to see them. Let's get upon another mountain where you can see the entirety of this camp."

The Word of God tells us that Balak brought him to the top of Pisgah so that he might be able to look out on the whole of the camp. They built their altars and they offered their sacrifices and Balaam started in again. This time, beloved, he offered a greater blessing upon the children of Israel than he had previously. Balak stopped him again in the midst of his second sermon and said, "You surely haven't seen all of this camp. Evidently you are not seeing the crowd that I want you to see."

Balak then took him to the highest mountain in that land, to the peak of Peor, and he said to Balaam, "Now, Balaam, look down in that valley. You can see the camp on all four sides. With this camp in view, put a curse upon that group of people in the valley." Balaam started in again, but God wouldn't let him pronounce a curse upon the children of Israel. Instead of pronouncing a curse upon those Jews, it was one blessing right after another that fell from the lips of Balaam relative to the children of Israel encamped within the valley. Then it was that Balak became angry. The Word of God says that Balak's anger was kindled and he smote his hands together. He said, "I sent for you to curse my enemies and you have blessed them altogether. I was going to give you great honor and great wealth," and thus he angrily started to take his departure. As Balak turned to leave, Balaam said, "I have some more to say; I have another message," and he spoke the words of my text:

"I shall see him but not now; I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Jacob, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth."

THIS IS A FULFILLMENT OF OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY.

In Numbers 24:17 Balaam said, "There shall come a Star out of Jacob," and in Matthew 2:2, we find the fulfillment of it when the wise men came and said, "Where is he that is born, King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him." We read further on in that chapter that they followed the star until it came to rest directly over the house where the Christ child lay. I say to you, beloved, the prophecy is given to us in Numbers 24:17 and we find the fulfillment of it in Matthew 2:2. This is another glorious, concrete example of another fulfilled Old Testament prophecy.

This leads me to bless the name of my God and it gives me courage to believe that God will fulfill every prophecy and will keep every promise that He has ever spoken. Beloved, if God saw to it that the prophecy which was uttered by Balaam in the long ago relative to the star was gloriously

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and completely fulfilled, God will see to it that every prophecy within this Bible is fulfilled. He will see to it that every promise in this Bible will be taken care of, and that not one of them will be broken.

Let's notice a few of those prophecies and promises, to see whether or not He honors His Word. We read:

"Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and THERE IS NOTHING TOO HARD FOR THEE." — Jer. 32:17.

I am persuaded to believe that the same God who saw to it that that star was hung out in the sky in honor to the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, fulfilling Old Testament prophecy, that that same God will see to it that Jeremiah 32:17 will likewise be fulfilled when He said that there is "nothing too hard for God." Brother, sister, perhaps you are facing some problem today. Maybe you have some difficult task or some difficult burden that just seems more than you are able to bear. Beloved, there is nothing too hard for God. Churches face problems all the time. Individuals face problems. Sunday School teachers face lots of problems, but, beloved, remember this, there is nothing too hard for God. The God who fulfilled the prophecy concerning the star is the same God who said that there wasn't anything too hard for Him to do.

Let's read another promise:

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." — John 15:7.

What a promise! What a marvelous promise! The marvel of it becomes even greater when we realize that the God that fulfilled the promise concerning the star is the God who said, "Ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

Let us think a minute. If you are saved, you are doubtlessly concerned about somebody who is lost, and you are interested in seeing that individual become a child of God. If you are a child of God, you know that you have somebody that you are concerned about, and it may seem like you have prayed a long time, and that you have been interested in that person's salvation a long time and haven't seen any evidence of it coming to pass. What does God say? "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." It was the same God who fulfilled the promise concerning the star, that gave us this promise.

Let us look at another promise. In Revelation 17, we have a story of a harlot woman and her harlot daughters. The harlot woman is nothing more or less than Roman Catholicism, and the harlot daughters that have come from this mother of harlots, are the Protestant churches that have come out of Rome. I make no apology when I say that the old whore and her harlot daughters that are spoken of in Revelation 17 are a definite, direct picture of Roman Catholicism and the Protestant Churches that have come out of Rome. If I had the time to give you a full exegesis of this portion of Scripture, I am sure that I could convince the worst skeptic that this is what this Scripture means.

"And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire." — Rev. 17:16.

Beloved, this would tell us that Roman Catholicism and all the churches that came out of Rome are going to be completely destroyed. It doesn't look much like it today. It surely doesn't look much like it is ever going to be fulfilled, but listen, a thousand years with the Lord is as a day, and a day is as a thousand years. What a thousand years is with us, is just a simple day with the Lord Jesus Christ. It has been

only two days in the mind of God since He prophesied that the old whore and her harlot daughters were going to be destroyed. Maybe in another day, maybe in less than a day, it will come to pass. Beloved, no matter how long, it will come to pass. The same God that hung a star in the sky, is the God who said He will destroy the old whore and her harlot daughters, and He will do just that thing.

Let us notice again. In the book of Revelation, we read concerning the Devil:

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb." — Rev. 12:11.

This would tell us that there is a way whereby you can get victory over the Devil, and that is by the blood of the Lamb. Beloved, there isn't anything said here about getting victory over him by joining the church. You can join the church and never get any victory over him. You can be baptized and you won't get any victory over the Devil. You can turn over a new leaf and you won't get any victory over the Devil. The first of the year will come and a great crowd of drunks will get sobered up and they will swear that they aren't going to drink any more this year—that they are going to walk the straight and narrow path, but they will go right on just as bad as they have been. Why? Because (Continued on page 3, column 1)

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"A Star"

(Continued from page two)

You do not overcome the Devil with a New Year's resolution. You can only overcome the Devil through the blood — the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The same God who said that a star shall come out of Jacob and who saw to it that it was gloriously fulfilled, said in this twelfth chapter of Revelation that the way of victory over the Devil is through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As the old song says:
"He will keep His promise to me,
All the way with me He will go;
He has never broken any promise
spoken:
He will keep His promise, I
know."

II

LET'S NOTICE WHY CHRIST WAS CALLED A STAR.

In the first place, a star is a pattern of constancy. It does not change. Stars look just the same tonight as they first did when you first looked upon them. A star does not change. Everything else changes; kings change; nations change; forms of government change; modes of transportation change; methods of warfare change; styles change; our health changes; our houses change; our homes change; everything about us changes, but, beloved, the stars remain the same.

On that night long ago, when, in Genesis 14, Abraham walked beneath that Syrian sky and looked up therein, God spoke to him and said, "Abraham, count the stars." He said, "Lord, it is impossible." God said, "So shall thy seed be." Listen, beloved, every little star in the sky whispered to Abraham, "Have faith in God." The stars that looked down on Abraham that night years ago, are the same stars that look down on you and me tonight. They haven't changed one particle. They are a pattern of constancy.

No wonder Balaam referred to the Lord Jesus Christ under the figure of a star. Beloved, the Lord Jesus Christ doesn't change. He remains the same.

"Jesus Christ the SAME yesterday, and to day, and for ever."—Heb. 13:8.

"Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, EVEN FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING, thou art God."—Psa. 90:1,2.

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

Beloved, as the stars are a pattern of constancy and change not, but remain the same, so Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, to day, and forever, and through all the days to come He shall remain the same.

Another reason why the Lord Jesus Christ was referred to under the figure of a star is that a star shines on all alike. God doesn't let the stars shine just on one place and cause them to refrain from shining on another. Some people are rich and some are poor, but the poor man can enjoy the starlight just as does the rich man.

Some folk like music, and while everything with them is music, to others it is just a big noise. Some folk are very prosaic, while others are poetic. Some folk are cultured while others are boorish. Some are black and some are white. Some are learned and some are ignorant and illiterate. Beloved, it makes no difference what the conditions may be, the stars shine on all alike.

Beloved, Jesus Christ shines on all men alike. Thank God, He didn't come just to save one class. If He had, the most of us would never have been saved. Thank God, He didn't come to save the rich. If He had, I would never have been saved. Thank God, beloved, He came to save all alike, and when He left this world, He said:

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to EVERY

CREATURE."—Mark 16:15.

Over in the Calvary Baptist Church in Washington several years ago, at the close of the services one day, three individuals walked down to the front of that church, indicating their acceptance of Jesus Christ as their Saviour and their desire to place their membership in that church on the grounds of baptism. The first was Hon. Charles Evans Hughes of the Supreme Court. Side by side with him was a widow woman, and on the other side of him was a poor Chinese washer-man living there within the city. When the pastor walked down to shake hands with these three and to present them to the congregation, he called attention to the apparent differences in their lives, and he said, "At the Cross of Christ the ground is perfectly level." I tell you, beloved, the stars shine on all alike.

Jesus is also referred to under the figure of a star because a star is the fountain of influence. Maybe you won't agree with me on that. Maybe you do not believe that the stars and the moon exert an influence. Beloved, I am old-fashioned enough in my theology that when I set out plants, and plant beans and potatoes, I consult the moon before I do it. I believe that the stars exert a tremendous influence. Listen:

"Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for SIGNS, and for seasons, and for days, and for years."—Gen. 1:14.

Not only do stars exert an influence over crops, tides, and the seasons, but the Bible tells us that the stars exert an influence over your life and mine.

"Canst thou bind the SWEET INFLUENCES of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?"—Job 38:31.

If you will study this closely, you will find that it is speaking about the Pleiades and the Orion—the stars, and Job thus speaks of their influences. I do not know that I could give you an interpretation of that text, but I just accept it on its face value—literally, that the stars are the fountain of influence.

Beloved, then I turn to the Lord Jesus Christ and I proudly say that the Son of God came for that purpose, to be a fountain of influence. Oh, the influence of the Son of God upon the life of a sinner! When the Son of God shines upon one that is dead in sin, that individual begins to live. No man has ever yet been made alive until Jesus Christ has shined upon him. No man has ever been made alive until the influence of Jesus Christ has been felt in his life.

Oh, the influence of the Son of God when He shines upon some burdened Christian. That Christian faces a new life, with a smile upon his face and a smile within his heart.

Oh, the influence of Jesus when He shines upon some backslider saint. That backslider mends his ways. As the stars exert their influence upon us, so the Son of God influences us. The more Jesus Christ becomes real to you, the more influence the Son of God has in your life.

Jesus was referred to as a star too, because a star is a source of guidance. You have read of the Polar Star. Before the days of radar, the Polar Star was the means of navigation. All ships were navigated by setting their sails with the Polar Star. Beloved, I say that as a star is a source of guidance, so the Lord Jesus Christ is the greatest source of guidance that you and I could ever have.

I used to go fox hunting in the years gone by. Maybe you won't think so much of me when I tell you that, but, beloved, I used to love to hear the hounds bark. And frankly, the more I see of human beings in this twentieth century, the better I like dogs. I can remember many and many a time on going fox hunting at night that when I got out of my car and started into the woods, that I have looked up and got my bearings — got my location and marked

ed it by a star that is in the sky. It didn't make any difference where I went into the hills, nor how far I went into the woods, nor how many swamps I waded, I could find my way back to that car because I marked it by a star. Beloved, a star is a source of guidance.

I say to you, beloved, if you want guidance in this world in which we live, look to the Lord Jesus Christ as a source of guidance. He guides every man who is searching. He will lead you to liberty. You can look in vain for peace elsewhere, but you can look to the Lord Jesus Christ and He will guide you.

Jesus is likewise referred to under the figure of a star because a star is an object of wonder. Do you remember that little couplet that you learned years ago when you were a child—

"Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are."

Beloved, look up at them tonight and wonder about them. Why, astronomers know so little about the stars. They are still wondering about them. Years ago, the scientists said that they could count as many as 6000 stars. Then when Galileo came with his telescope, they said that they could count up to 60,000. Then when the high-powered telescopes were invented, they found that they could count as high as 360,000,000. Now they tell us that the stars can not be counted, that they are infinite in number. Jeremiah told us in the long ago that they are numberless. Beloved, the astronomers know so little about the stars, and the result of their observation is only astonishment, instead of intelligence.

The same is true concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. The more you wonder about Him, the more you become amazed with wonder. Beloved, there is mighty little that you can know about Jesus. You can know Him as your Saviour. You can know Him as your Lord. You can know what He means to you. Oh, the vastness and the bigness of the Son of God! What He is and what He may mean to us someday only causes us to wonder. You look up in the skies and that star that you see only appears to be a little hole in the sky, or maybe it looks like a little gold dust that has been sprinkled here and there, but when you get a telescope and look through it, the star looks a lot larger than just a little dust that has been sprinkled in the heavens. If you could take an airplane and journey toward it, the closer you got, the larger that star would appear to you. If you could get right next to it, you would find in each one of those stars a world so big that you could not compute its size.

Now, beloved, that is what Jesus Christ is to us. The most I knew about Him on the day that He became my Saviour and my Lord was that He had saved me. He has come to mean more and more and more to me every day as I go down life's pathway, but every time that I read my Bible, my Jesus becomes more and more and more an object of wonder. Every day I get a little closer to Him, and He is just like those stars—if you were near them, you couldn't even compute their size, so great would they be. Jesus is just the same to me.

Brother, sister, listen to me, it is no wonder that God caused Balaam to say, "There shall come a star out of Jacob." Surely Jesus is that star. He is an object of wonder to every one of us.

III

HOW DO YOU RECEIVE HIM?

Matt. 2:16 tells us that Herod had all the babies in Bethlehem killed. Luke 2:7 tells how that they received Him in Bethlehem—there was not even a place for Him to stay when He was born—there was no comfortable room for Him in the Inn, but rather He was born in a stable, and

cradled in a manger. That was the world's reception for the Son when the Lord Jesus was born. I wonder, beloved, how it is today. I wonder if the world has any more love for Jesus. I wonder if the world's reception would be one bit different today. Let's consider it carefully.

We have just passed through that pagan season of Christmas—pagan because that is where it comes from—and how has Jesus been treated? We say that it is His birthday, but how many of you gave gifts to one another? I think that if it were my birthday I would feel very much slighted if you gave gifts to everybody else but me. Surely all these signs of worldliness show us that the reception the Lord Jesus Christ receives today is no different from the night so long ago when He was born in Bethlehem.

Beloved, I go back to that day and stand on that high mount with Balaam and Balak and I hear Balaam say, "I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob." I come down to the day that He was born and I see Him in the manger. I see His star in the sky. I turn to the close of Revelation and I hear Him say, "I am the bright and morning star." Beloved, has the Son of God — God's Star — come into your heart? Has the Star of Bethlehem become the Polar Star of your life? May it please Jesus for you to see Him as the Star of your life this very hour.

May God bless you!

Marriage?

(Continued from Page One)

speaks of the bridegroom as "the Lamb." This title in the writings of John always refers to Jesus Christ. John the Baptist called Christ the bridegroom: "He that hath the bride is the bridegroom" (John 3:29). Christ even called Himself by this title: "Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast" (Matt. 9:15). The Lord Jesus pictured Himself as the bridegroom in the parable of Matthew 25:1-13. The bridegroom is the King's son of Matthew 22:1-14. Verse 2 of Matthew 22 makes it plain the "marriage is for his son."

The Bride

Israel cannot be the bride of Christ. She is the mother of Jesus Christ: "Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came" (Rom. 9:5). In Revelation 12 Israel is the

Sun-Clothed Woman. She is said to give birth to a man child who shall rule all nations (Rev. 12:1-5). Here again we see Israel giving birth to Jesus Christ.

Israel is already the wife of God the Father. To Israel Isaiah declared: "For thy Maker is thine husband" (Isa. 54:5). Because of her spiritual whoredoms, Israel is a cast off wife: "Plead with your mother, plead: for she is not my wife, neither am I her husband: let her therefore put away her whoredoms out of her sight, and her adulteries from between her breasts" (Hos. 2:2). When she ceases from her adulteries, the Father will take her back as a cast off wife. Hosea 2:7 pictures Israel saying: "I will go and return to my first husband; for then was it better with me than now." Christ is to marry a virgin, not a cast off wife (II Cor. 11:2).

The bride cannot be all the saved. There will be guests at the marriage as indicated in Rev. 19:9. If all the saved are in the bride, then who are these guests? Can we be so foolish as to suppose the bride will be invited to her own wedding? This is unthinkable.

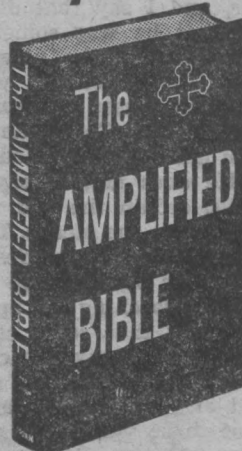
Christ's bride is not the total sum of all denominations. She is not Christendom with its variety of denominations and confusing doctrines. If this were the case, Christ would be a polygamist! Song of Solomon presents the bridegroom saying to his bride: "My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother" (S. of S. 6:9). "There is one body" (Eph. 4:3).

The bride of Christ is not the members of all Baptist churches found in the different associations, conventions, and the like of our time and former times. I believe the Lord's bride is found among those churches which wear the name Baptists. I say among the Baptists because not all churches who wear the name Baptist are New Testament churches.

The bride will be composed of that group of Spirit-regenerate men and women who have been baptized into a New Testament Baptist church, and who have lived consistent lives for the Lord. They are the faithful few in the true churches. Revelation 19:7-8 discloses that those in the bride have some works of righteousness. Those in the bride have such moral purity that they are called "a chaste virgin" (II Cor. 11:2). To be in the bride is a distinct privilege of only a few. It is a great reward, for there is a vast difference in being a bride and just being a guest at a wedding.

(Continued on page 6, column 3)

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

JUNE 23, 1973

PAGE THREE

The Baptist Examiner FORUM

"In John R. Rice's paper, I read the following, which was printed at the close of a sermon by Dwight L. Moody.

Dear Dr. Rice:

I have read Mr. Moody's sermon on "What Think Ye Of Christ?" I know that Jesus is surely all that He claimed to be—God in human form, our sinless, perfect Saviour. He wants to forgive and save me. I know I need to be born again. So here and now I turn my heart from my sin and trust Jesus Christ to forgive and save me, as He promised to do. I will not only give him my heart now, but I will set out to live for him, and will claim him openly as my Saviour. Now that I am taking Christ as my own personal Saviour, Bro. Rice, will you write me a note of encouragement and help as to how to live the Christian life?"

This sounds as if God is wanting to do something and can't. Isn't this about the most false statement you ever saw in print?

E. G.
Cook

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



In Mt. 28:18, our Lord said, "All power is given unto Me in Heaven and in earth." In the light of that statement how can we think for one moment that He is unable to do anything He wants to do? In Mt. 19:25b the disciples said to Him, "Who then can be saved?" And in verse 26 He said, "With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." And in Luke 1:37 He said, "For with God nothing shall be impossible." I have before me a paper clipping in which the great Billy Graham(?) says, "One thing God cannot do is to interfere with man's free choices." Now the great John R. Rice (?) infers the same thing.

In Job 23:13 we are told that "What His soul desireth, even that He doeth." In Dan. 4:35 we read, "He doeth according to His will in the army of Heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth." And Eph. 1:11 speaks of Him as the one "who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will." In John 5:21 He says, "The Son quickeneth (saves, Eph. 2:1) whom He will." Jno. 1:13 speaks of our being "born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." And in Mt. 1:21 the angel of the Lord said to Joseph, "thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall (not try to) save His people from their sins."

Unless my Lord can do anything and everything He pleases, His mercy would be no better than my feeble pity. Unless He can save anybody He wants to save, His grace would simply have to be implemented in some way by the lost sinner. When this takes place His grace is no more grace, Rom. 11:6. Beloved, God is power. In Mk. 14:62 Jesus said, "Ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power." In the light of all this, we are not surprised when we hear Job saying in 42:2, "I know that thou canst do everything," nor when God Himself says in Isa. 46:10, "My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure."

I am aware that the free-will Arminian has some references that when given a private interpretation seem to support his view. For instance, on the surface it appears that Paul and Silas are telling the Philippian jailer in Acts 16:31 that he must believe in order for him to be saved. But everyone must admit that a person must have faith in Christ before he can believe on Him. And in Eph. 2:8 we read, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that (the faith) not of yourselves; it is the gift of God."

Since faith is a gift of God, no one can have faith in Christ until God gives him that faith. And along with the faith God also gives the belief. In Phil. 1:29 we read, "For unto you it is given in behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake." So, since both our faith and our believing are gifts of God, Paul and Silas were really saying to the jailer "believe on Jesus Christ and you will already be saved." In John 3:36 we read, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life." This is present tense, meaning that the person who believes on Christ already has that everlasting life. So we believe because God has already saved us. According to Eph. 2:1 the lost sinner is dead in trespasses and sins. He is not just a little puny. And a spiritually dead person is not capable of doing any spiritual thing any more than a physically dead person can do any physical thing. Lazarus did not come out of the tomb dead. Christ had to give him life before he could come out. So Christ must give the spiritually dead sinner spiritual life before he can believe.

Scriptures galore not only affirm that God can do anything He wants to do, they also affirm that He does everything connected with our salvation. So when anyone says, or even infers, that God cannot do certain things, somebody is lying. You can take your choice as to who is doing the lying. I have already taken mine.

ROY
MASON

RADIO MINISTER
BAPTIST PREACHER
Aripeka, Florida



I would make several remarks concerning the sermon printed in Bro. Rice's paper. First, I would say that he does a worthy thing when he reprints so many sermons by the great preachers of the past. Moody was a great preacher, and I say that despite the fact that he was sometimes wrong in some of the views he expressed. In this case it would seem that God used the sermon to turn a man to Christ, and for that I am indeed happy. God uses means. He does not, as say the Hardshells, ordain the end without reference to the means. That's why the doctrine of predestination has never hindered me from evangelistic preaching and appeal. God ordained that some should be saved through my preaching, so my preaching was just as much ordained of God as was the salvation of those who were saved under my ministry. I have never used tricks in trying to get people to come forward, as I have seen some do. Tricks are not necessary. I think of the time when Paul preached at Antioch, and we read (Acts 13:48), "And as MANY AS WERE ORDAINED TO ETERNAL LIFE BELIEVED." It was ordained of God that Paul

should preach that sermon, and it was likewise ordained that some who heard should believe, and "as many as were ordained of God to eternal life believed." Ordained ends and ordained means used to those ends, always go together.

Now as to the idea that God wants to do something and can't that certainly is as false as anything can ever be. I think of the freewill preacher who used every trick and stunt he could think of to get sinners to come down front during the invitation, but none came. Sadly he said, "Poor God! Poor God!" God wanted to save them, but they just wouldn't let him, and He couldn't help Himself! I say BUNK! NONSENSE! Every human being ordained to eternal life before the foundation of the world, shall be saved without the loss of a single one.

I have the same mighty God that Daniel of old possessed, and here is what he said about him. (Dan. 4:35), "He doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth, and none can stay his hand or say unto him. What doeth thou?" Let this verse and its meaning soak in, and you will never find yourself pitying God and saying, "Poor God!"



JAMES
HOBBS

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

Yes, it is a false statement and it throws the sovereignty of God in the mud. I have no use for such statements. I have read several tracts that are very good on various subjects, but I will not use them because they have a similar type statement at the end. **I will not have such irreligious trash in my tract rack.**

In the first place, let me point out that I do not believe a person can be saved by reading a tract or sermon. Paul said in I Corinthians 1:21, "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." I realize that some say that a printed sermon or tract is preaching in print. That may be true; however, God gives us a very clear and positive proof in this respect. "And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. . . . Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same Scripture, and preached unto him Jesus." (Acts 8:27-35). If you will notice, the Holy Spirit sent Philip. If the man could be saved by reading, then certainly he could be saved by reading a portion of the Bible, yet the Holy Spirit sent a man. Why? Because in God's providence He has decreed that this is the way that it should be done.

In Mr. Rice's statement, there are such statements as: "He wants to forgive me and save me," "Now I turn my heart from sin," "I will not only give my heart now. . . ." "Now that I am taking Christ. . . ." Such statements are in direct conflict to God's word and bring dishonor to God.

No one can come to Jesus. "No man can come to me except the Father which hath sent me draw him, and I will raise him up at the last day." (John 6:44). No one gives his heart to God. He

New Guinea Photo Story

Last week we introduced a few pictures of the last mission patrol that we had made. The pictures that appear in this issue are a continuation of those made on that patrol.



This picture was made on a road one day as I was walking by and saw these native women. Later they were assembled at one of our churches for a preaching service. I work with four different tribes and language groups. These women are from the Duna tribe.



This picture shows another one of the houses that has been built for me to stay in while visiting with the people of this area. To the right of this building, not visible in this picture, is the church building. This is the place where we organized a Baptist Church while on this patrol where six years ago we held our first service in a sweet potato patch (where my house now sits), with four people.

would not want it. He tells us that, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it." (Jer. 17:9). God told them, "And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the Lord. . . ." (Jer. 24:7). This is shown in the book of Acts. "And a certain woman named Lydia. . . whose heart the Lord opened. . ." (Acts 16:14).

God does the saving, we do not give Him our heart. Any act or form that puts the gift of salvation in man's hand is contrary to the Word of God.



AUSTIN
FIELDS

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

Yes, after reading the statement, I agree that it is ridiculous and absurd and also reveals their ignorance of what God is and what His word says. Though it is ridiculous and unworthy of serious consideration, yet we hear it proclaimed in many forms and fashions. The natural mind is ever, "Enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." — Rom. 8:7. Therefore, he invents doctrines to lower God to man's equal because they despise the thought that God is ruling over them. When man tries to degrade God to his own level, they make unto themselves idols which consist of their boasted free-will and free-moral agency for they teach that God wants to do certain things which He cannot do unless the sinner gives Him per-

mission. allows or lets. The heathen makes his idols out of mud, stick and stone; whereas, the American hews him a god out of his imagination, and they make their God subject to man rather than man subject to God.

The truth of the matter is God does not work from decisions handed to him by man; rather He works from His own predestinated counsel, which was drawn up in the council halls of eternity. But if the statement is correct that, "God wants to save me" then God's counsel means nothing unless it is ratified by the sinner. I would that you read what the Lord said about His counsel through the Apostle Paul.

In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will." Eph. 1:11.

Only God can see my heart, thus He knows the joy that is there as I write this answer, and that joy is the result of the knowledge that my God is not dependent upon the will of a depraved sinner to fulfill His counsel. He does not wait on any one. If He desires to save, there is none, absolutely none, who can stay His hand, or even hinder him in fulfilling the pleasures of His heart.

"And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" Dan. 4:35.

"Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?" Isa. 43:13.

(Continued on page 7, column 1)

and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mark 8:36, 37).

Women's Lib

(Continued from page three)
the head of woman in I Cor. 11 and elsewhere. God revealed that the woman should be subject to the man and dependent upon him. It is always and everywhere wrong for a woman to occupy a position which would place her in authority over a man. This is not only true in the church, but it is true in the home, it is true in the business world and in the political world. Women should not occupy any position in business that would give them any authority over a man. A woman boss is a sin against God, against womanhood, and against manhood. No woman should occupy a position in the political world "period." Such a position gives her a measure of authority over man. And any act of authority of a woman over a man is, at the same time, an act of rebellion against God. Every woman in political office is in a position of rebellion against the Bible, and every vote was a vote against God and against the Bible.

The Bible teaches that the woman as a wife is to be obedient to her husband. Now, the leaving out the word "obey" in the marriage vows, by some pussy-footing preacher, does not take it out of the Word of God. Marriage is not a partnership of equals. The husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church. Those who rebel against the headship of the husband in marriage, rebel against the headship of Jesus Christ. Wives, you will either obey your husband, or you will disobey the Lord. This Biblical teaching of the headship of the husband certainly destroys the Women's Lib movement.

The Bible teaches that the woman is not equal to the man in the Lord's church. She is not to lead in public prayer. She is not to teach men. She is not to even speak in the church. This certainly does not look like equal rights. But it is Bible. In other words, you ladies have a choice: either the Bible or equal rights — but you can't have both.

The Bible teaches that the woman should wear a head covering in the church to show forth her willing subjection to man. But the man is not to have his head covered. You women who do not wear the head covering in church, are joining the women libbers in this one thing.

Now all this teaching is in the Bible: 1. Man was created first. 2. Woman was created to help man. 3. Man is to be in authority over woman. 4. Woman is to be subject to man. 5. Women are not to do some things in the church, for they are restricted to the men. 6. Women are to wear a head covering in church. All these things clearly and indisputably show that the Bible is forever against Women's Lib. These arguments cannot be answered. There is no Bible which favors Women's Lib. The verses which tell us there is no difference between male and female are talking about salvation. Salvation is the same for man or woman, but salvation does not do away with the distinctions that God has made, and which are to be followed.

Women's Lib is unpatriotic. I have already pointed this out. For the strength of a nation must finally lie in its moral strength. This must be rooted and grounded in the homes of that nation. And no nation can be strong unless its women are in the place God prepared for them. Women's Lib will eat and destroy the home life and the moral character (what little is left) of America.

Women's lib is against the nature of womanhood itself. God created woman for a position. That position is to be a helper to a man, to bear children, and to guide the house. God prepared woman admirably for that posi-



In this picture can be seen quite a large group of people waiting for us to get underway with a preaching service. Not long after this picture was made, we assembled the people at this exact spot and preached to them, and then after this service, we walked on down the road a short distance where a little lake was located and held a baptismal service.



The baptizing mentioned in the picture where all the people were waiting on the road had actually gotten underway when this picture was made. There were several people baptized on this occasion.



This picture was made after I got back home from this patrol. I was in the process of harvesting my Irish potatoes. While the famine was on there in New Guinea, the government brought in quite a few seed potatoes and I got some and planted about one-fifth of an acre. I harvested just over two tons of potatoes. No one had ever seen potatoes like that, (the native people in this area) as most potatoes grow no larger than a small hen egg. Some of the larger ones were larger than a pint fruit jar and they would average the size of those you would see in the Supermarkets.

tion. And, praise God! What a blessing women are in that position. Those men who have ever been forced by different circumstances to try to be a homemaker at times, will rise up and testify that God made woman and not man for that job. A man just cannot do the woman's job as well as she can. Women were given by God the sentiment, the emotional nature, the capabilities that exactly suit her to properly fill the position that God made her for. Brother, a woman in that position is a wonderful sight to behold. The woman who is a saved woman, and who endeavors to fill the position that God gave her, is the most beautiful and becoming sight in all the world. Oh! What a blessing she is in her proper place. What an ornament to her husband, what a blessing to him, and to her children, and to the world looking on. No woman could ever reach a higher place in this world than to be a good wife

and a good mother. No woman could receive a higher reward in eternity, than that which will be given to saved women who are good wives and good mothers, and good workers in the Lord's churches — workers in their own place in the church, and not taking man's place. I cannot understand why women want to take the giant step downward, from that position God gave them, to positions of infinitely less honor and reward in this world. Now, Women Libbers are sinning against the Bible, but the Bible is all for women. Look at the facts. Where the influence of the Bible has not traveled, what is the condition of woman there? Are they not, to all practical purposes, the slaves of men? Ask (Continued on page 6, column 1)



This picture was made at the Guhabia Baptist Church. To the left of the picture can be seen the church building and on the right is the house that I live in while with them. We were on our way to a little river to baptize some folk when I made this picture. This is in the area where for the past several years we have had problems with the Protestants. It was at this very location that the series of incidents flared up with them on this last patrol.

ADAM'S RIB

WRITTEN BY A WOMAN
AND FOR WOMEN

"EXCHANGE — FOR WHAT"

Give up my Christ who died for me,
Who saved my soul and made me free,
A member of His family,
Give up my Christ — for what?
What do you offer in exchange
For answered prayer in Jesus' name
For Christ Who has the power to save
And give us life beyond the grave;
For hope of meeting loved ones there,
For peace of soul, and joy so rare,
For Book that shows the way to heaven,
For church where fellowship is given,
What can you exchange — for that?
Exchange my Christ for cocktail gin,

Two bleary eyes and a silly grin,
For fun that crackles as of tin,
Exchange my Christ — for that?

Exchange my peace for social gain,
Which crumbles with its tarnished name,
For gold that vanishes like rain,
Exchange my peace — for that?

Exchange the Book that shows the way,
To God Himself and sinless day,
For one who leads us far astray,
Exchange the Book — for that?

You say, "There is no heaven or God,
We simply die as does a dog,
And then decay just like a log,"
Should I exchange — for that?

Oh, please, do listen — it is true,
There is a God Who cared for you
Enough to send His Son from heaven,
To die that you might be forgiven;
That one day you could before Him stand,
Blood-washed, and in Immanuel's Land;
Triumphant in God's grace alone,
You could sing of Him around the throne:

"Hallelujah, 'tis done, I believe on the Son,
I'm saved by the blood of the crucified One."

"For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world

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Women's Lib

(Continued from page 5)

Brother Halliman as to the condition of women among the natives there before the gospel came in saving power. The woman was the man's slave and property almost. Did I not see his pictures of a woman meeting men on the path, and how she had to step off the path, and let the men pass? Did I not read in Paton's account of his missionary work how, when a woman was rebellious, they would kill her and eat her, and then other women would be obedient for awhile? Dear women, you have been immeasurably lifted up and blessed by the influence of the Bible. Now, why is it that women, who have been so greatly blessed by the influence of the Bible, will rebel against the few restraints which their Bible places upon them? You women who hate the Bible, where would you be if it were not for the Bible?

But why do the women rebel and seek for equal rights? The men do have some rights that women do not have. That is true. But do not the women, in their proper places, have rights and privileges that are far greater than those men have. She has a right to support by her husband. She has the right to have children, and share with God in the continuing of the human race. She has a right in all the spiritual privileges. She has the right to be treated with honor and respect by men. Men lift their women up, they put them on a pedestal, they provide for them, they protect them, they honor, love and respect them, they give honor to them as the weaker vessel, they would gladly, and have died for them. Women, what do you want? God has given you, and men have given you the best God or man has to give. What more do you want, what more could you desire?

Women had best cease and desist. They had best hush their cry for equal rights. They just might get them. And then how much lower and less privileged they would be than they now are. Women, why do you desire to step down from the glorious place God has given you, and fitted you for — and to step into that place for which you are not qualified, and where you will not be honored and privileged as you now are? Women, we men need you. Oh, how we need you. We need you where God placed you. We need you to be a soft pillow for our tired hearts after a day at work. We need you in

our homes. We need you to bear our children. We need you to keep our houses and transform them from houses into homes of love, beauty, peace, and comfort. We need you in our homes, that we might come from our work to our homes and find peace and strength to face tomorrow. We need you to give our children the love, understanding, patient guidance that they need for the life ahead of them. Oh, women, we need you so badly, in that place God has given you. We so desperately need the help God created you to give us. Women, we men — our lives are half-lives without you. You are the completion of our lives when they are complete. Do not let us down. Do not leave that place God gave you. Women, if you fail to do the job God gave you, who is going to do it? We men can't. It will have to go undone, and we will be the weaker and more miserable because that needed job is not done.

Women, if you will do that job God gave you, we men will appreciate it so much. We will be better and stronger men because

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of you. We will love you, and provide for you, and respect you, and do all in our power for you. And women, you will be better women, and we will be better men, and our children will be better, and our country will be better because our women have done the job God gave them to do.

When a woman swaps the place God gave her: to marry, bear children, and guide the house, for any other place, she has swapped freedom for slavery. Women's libbers are truly the female slaves of today. They are slaves to the Communists who lead them in this. They are slaves to the sinful passions of their own depraved nature. They are slaves to the Devil who is the great and mighty leader of the women's lib movement. They are slaves to the society in which they have chosen to exist. They are the more slaves to the men with whom they think they have found equality. Women, don't swap the glorious freedom and privilege of the place God has given you and fitted you for — the place where you are so desperately needed — the place where you shine most brightly and sweetly — don't swap that for the slavery of the women's lib movement. May God bless you all, especially you women.

Marriage?

(Continued from page 3)

You can be saved and not be in the bride. You can be a Baptist and not be in the bride. John the Baptist was saved, yet he was only the friend of the bridegroom (John 3:29). To be in the bride you must be a member of a New Testament Baptist church which has a link chain connection with the church at Jerusalem which was organized by Jesus Christ Himself. You must not only be a member of such a church, but you must also be a faithful member of such a church. To be in the bride you must be saved, baptized by Bible baptism and in fellowship with the local church of which you are a member.

The Guests

That there will be guests at the marriage cannot be doubted. John says: "Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb" (Rev. 19:9). In the marriage of the king's son in Matthew 22 it is written: "The wedding was furnished with guests."

It seems to me that the ten virgins in Matthew 25 must be separate and distinct from the bride and bridegroom. The virgins do not represent the church but "the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 25:1). These ten persons are the bride's maids. The five wise will be guests at the marriage supper.

The guests of the marriage will be the saved of all ages and dispensations. They are the saved who are not church members in this present age. They will be the Old Testament saints. The martyred tribulation saints will probably be included in this company. Maybe even babies and idiots.

I am of the opinion that some saved persons will not even be guests. Five of the ten virgins did not go in with the bridegroom (Matt. 25:10). Revelation 19:9 speaks of being called to the marriage supper as a distinct privilege. The spiritual Christians only will be in the bride. This excludes backslidden saints from being guests and backslidden Baptists from being in the bride.

Who Will Give Away The Bride?

In the theological world there prevails three schools of thought as to who will give away the bride. One school is that Christ Himself will give away His own bride. This idea originates from Ephesians 5:25-27 which reads: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

Another school holds that Paul will give away the church to Christ. These people rely upon II Corinthians 11:2 which declares:

"For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."

Still others believe John the Baptist will have this privilege. They appeal to John 3:29 where the Baptist said: "He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled."

Concerning these views I can only say that they are all worthy of consideration and serious study. It is not difficult to believe Christ will personally present the bride to Himself. Nor is it in the least hard for me to suppose He will do it through a human instrument. Certainly either John or Paul is well qualified to do this job if the Lord has so ordained.

The Marriage Supper

Revelation speaks not only of "the marriage of the Lamb" (Rev. 19:7), but it also speaks of "the marriage supper" (Rev. 19:9). These are not synonymous terms nor do these events occur simultaneously. The Scripture makes a distinction and so must we. The marriage supper is the feast which follows after the marriage has been solemnized. Christ made reference to it in Matthew 26:29 when He said: "But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." In Luke 22:18 He declared: "For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come." In verse 30 He again said: "That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel." These words indicate how Christ will at a future time eat and drink with His church in the Millennial Kingdom. This means the marriage supper will be on earth, while the marriage is in Heaven.

Israel will have a place in the marriage feast. Psalm 22:26-27 reads: "The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the Lord that seek him: your heart shall live for ever. All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the Lord: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee." Isaiah 25:6 seems to point to this marriage supper and to Israel's part in it: "And in this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well defined." The wines of Isaiah compare with the fruit of the vine mentioned by Jesus Christ.

Never in all the history of the world will there be a feast of such splendor and attended by such throngs of people. The feasts of Belshazzar and Ahasuerus will be a poor thing in comparison with the marriage supper of the Lamb. Maybe it was to this time that Christ referred when He said: "And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 8:11).

Then What?

When the marriage is solemnized in Heaven, Christ and His lovely, newly wedded wife will go to the bride's old home, the

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earth, for the marriage supper and a thousand year honeymoon. During this time the church will reign with Christ over the nations of the earth. The honeymoon will end by the return of the husband and wife to the Father's house. After the earth is renovated by fire, they will return with the descent of the Holy City to abide on earth forever (Rev. 21:2,9). Christ and the church and the Father and Israel will inhabit the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:9-14). The guests will dwell outside the Holy City (Rev. 21:22-24).

Before long Christ will say: "Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away" (S. of S. 2:10). Then Heaven will resound the cry: "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come." The marriage of the Lamb is the consummation of the joy of Christ as a man. This marriage will be made in Heaven. It will unite Heaven and earth in a bond that shall never be broken.

Jesus Christ may come at any moment to take the church to the bridal halls of Heaven! The next face you see may be that of the Son of God! The next meal you eat may be the marriage supper! The next standing you do may be at the Judgment Seat of Christ! Are you ready?

Could it be on this day
That Christ will call us away?
Is this the golden daybreak
When Christ the church will take?

Will we within the next hour
Feel the Saviour's transforming power?
Will He pierce the eastern sky
And take us to the Bema on high?

Will the heavenly wedding bells ring?
Will all Heaven shout and sing,
"Christ and His bride are no long twain,
And soon on the earth they shall reign."

How wonderful to sit in the banquet hall
With Moses, John and Paul!
But, oh, the greatest joy of all
Will be to see Christ, not Paul!

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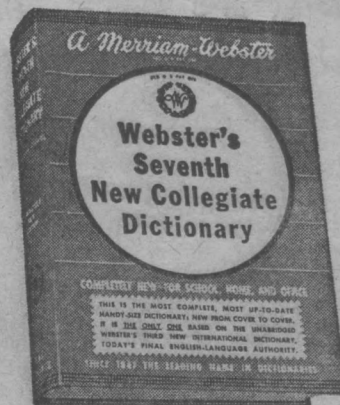
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The Forum

(Continued from page 4)

In the statement this one said, "I will give my heart unto the Lord." From this statement, I gather that this one evidently does not know the condition of the heart of man. The heart of the Adamic man is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it? — Jer. 17:9. Brethren, God would not receive such a vile corruptible thing as our heart. In fact, when he regenerated us He did not operate on our sinful hearts to take out the corruption, rather he gave to us a new heart and a new spirit thus making us a new creation. Furthermore, I do not know how man could give His heart unto the Lord. To do so one must in some way operate upon himself, cutting away his heart, and then give it to the Lord. There is no way by which one could give him life or heart

unto the Lord in exchange for eternal life. The Apostle in discussing his life relative to the flesh said these words: "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing" — Rom. 7:18.

Paul, in order to make himself clear, revealed how that he now lived and he made it clear with these words:

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" Gal. 2:20.

After studying the remarks in this statement I have concluded that the person is ignorant of God's righteousness, and has gone about to establish his own righteousness. This becomes evident by their boasting of what they intended to do and the sacrifices that they were going to offer in giving their heart and life to God. Thus, the statement is ridiculous and without scriptural sanction.

Why ... A Baptist?

(Continued from page one)

He was the truth, yea, He was the "pillar and ground of the truth." He, now that He has gone away, has made His church the "pillar and ground of the truth." The church is not the truth itself, but it is the "pillar and ground of it." The truth, of course, is the Word.

"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH" — I Tim. 3:15.

Those groups who claim to be a church and thus represent our Lord Jesus Christ, must measure up to the above verse or they are a church in name only. They, if they are not the "pillar and ground of the truth," can only be the pillar and ground of error. We can be very sure that those who are the pillar and ground of error are not churches of our Lord, therefore, they have no right to perform any of the functions of the Lord's church.

Our Lord, when He was here in person, only recognized as His own those who followed His teaching; all others were aliens. This same truth is applicable today. There were many religious groups existing in our Lord's day which He did not recognize. He, in fact, condemned them. The Pharisees, for example, were one of the groups which He condemned. I'm sure, however, that the Pharisees would be accepted by many groups today who call themselves churches.

The Lord's church, since she

is the representative of Christ, is the most important organization on the face of the earth. The same would apply to the moon if the moon were populated and had organizations such as are on the earth. There could be nothing on the moon that was more important than the Lord's church.

The Lord Jesus has returned to the Father, but He has left His church in this dark world as His representative. The church, in fact, represents His hands and feet. She is His mouth piece while He is away, therefore, she is to say and do that which He would do were He here in person. We, therefore, who are members of His body are to search the Scriptures so that we will know what instructions He has left for us relative to His church.

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should FOLLOW HIS STEPS" — I Peter 2:21.

It should also be pointed out that the Lord's church is His body, but not His head.

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and He is the Saviour of the body" — Ephesians 5:23.

The church, therefore, must do all that she does in accordance with her head — Christ. This can only be done by a diligent study of and obedience to the mind of Christ (head) as it is revealed through His Word.

Our physical bodies speak and move in accord with the orders given by our brain. The church, in like manner, is to speak and move in accord with Christ — her brain. We, by reading Matthew 28:18-20, will discover some orders from Christ, the brain (head) of His church.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER I (the head and brain) HAVE COMMANDED YOU: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Our physical bodies receive messages from our brain by way of our nerves and the church communicates with Christ by way of God the Spirit. We, in fact, who study the Word under the influence of God the Spirit, are able to look into the mind of Christ.

"But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God" — I Cor. 2:10.

Many churches (so called) who are in gross error, say that they have received their instructions from God the Spirit, however, God the Spirit never speaks con-

trary to the Word. The same is true of our physical bodies; that is, the nerves only communicate to the body that which originates in the mind.

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" — I John 4:1.

We have said that the Scriptures were written to the Lord's church and we have said that the Lord is head of His church. We have also said that God the Spirit communicates the Word (mind) of Christ to His church. We must now determine who it is that the Lord has written His Word to, yea, who represents the body over which our Lord is head? I'm convinced, beyond the shadow of any doubt, that the church our Lord built was and is a Baptist church. I share this conviction with many well read men whose testimony we will give later on in this message.

We hear much today about uniting all churches into one. I, too, would want this to occur if I were not a Baptist. Baptists, however, are the losers when they unite with false churches.

We, when we speak of false churches, must also include many who call themselves by the great name of Baptists. A Baptist church (so called) that is not the "pillar and ground of the truth," is as false as any of the other false churches. The name on a box may say "shoes," but if there are no shoes in the box, then the name means nothing. The same applies to a group who call themselves a church. The name means nothing if they are not full of truth.

I'm convinced that our Lord had reference to a Baptist church when He said:

"And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" — Mt. 16:18.

Peter informs us that the rock our Lord built His church on was himself (Christ) and Paul declares, "other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

Those who are familiar with Scripture will know that our Lord was baptized by a Baptist (John) rather than a Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran or any other group. We also know from John 1:6 that John the Baptist was on a special assignment from heaven to do the work which he did.

"There was a man SENT FROM GOD, whose name was John."

John was sent from the Father who made and called him a Baptist, therefore, those he baptized would automatically be Baptists too. An apple tree produces apples and a true Baptist produces Baptists.

John baptized our Lord and after the baptism there was a voice from heaven which said, "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." It is very obvious from this statement by the Father that He was well pleased with His Son being a Baptist. It stands to reason, then, that He is also well pleased with sound Baptists today.

We, by searching the Scriptures, will find that the Apostles were Baptists too, for they were also baptized by John, yea, they were baptized by the one who was on a special assignment from heaven to do the very work which he did. We, in fact, learn from I Corinthians 12:28 that the Apostles were the very first to be set in the church.

"And God hath set some in the church, FIRST APOSTLES . . ."

It is obvious from the above that the head and founder of the church was a Baptist and that the material (Apostles) from which the church was built was Baptist material, therefore, who can successfully argue that the first church (the church our Lord built) was not a Baptist church?

The church (Baptist), then, was founded when our Lord was here in person, therefore, any group who have sprung up since the personal ministry of Christ cannot consider themselves as the church He founded. Those who

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have begun the various so-called churches in the world today should have joined with the Baptists that were in existence at the time in which they began their new movement. Martin Luther, for example, should have joined the Baptists rather than start a separate work. The same is true of John Knox who began the Presbyterian movement in 1560, John and Charles Wesley who began the Methodist movement in 1744, Alexander Campbell who began the church of Christ movement in the early 1800's, Joseph Smith who began the Mormon church in 1829, Charles Russell who began the Jehovah's Witness movement in about 1870, Mrs. Mary Baker Patterson Clover Eddy who began the Christian Science movement in 1879, Henry the Eighth who began the Episcopal movement in 1534 and Gregory the Great who began the Catholic movement in 590.

The testimony of the following men give clear evidence to the fact that the church our Lord founded was and is a Baptist church.

"May I say that I confidently believe, categorically aver, and unconditionally assert that the Baptist churches were founded by Jesus during the time of His ministry, and that their principles of faith and practice are to be found in a book, called the Bible; chiefly in that portion known as the New Testament, every word of which was written by a Baptist. With Jesus as their founder, the Bible as their textbook, Baptist churches have existed from the day of Jesus' memorable utterance, 'I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it' — Elder John R. Gilpin.

"The Baptists may be considered as the only Christian community that has stood since the days of the Apostles, and as Christian society has preserved pure the doctrines of the Gospel through all ages" — Ypeij and Dermont, historians of the Dutch Reformed Church.

"I should not readily admit that there was a Baptist Church as far back as 100 A.D. although (Continued on page 8, column 4)

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JUNE 23, 1973

PAGE SEVEN

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Burket's Report

(Continued from page one)

Luke 18:8, as he walked upon this sin-cursed earth, "Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find (the) faith on the earth?" I believe that the article "the" before faith, is not out of order. If you read the context, you will see that He had reference to the Pharisees, the free-will Arminian Baptists of our day, who are compassing sea and land to make proselytes or make disciples after themselves; "and when he is made, ye make him two-fold more the child of hell than yourselves." I know that I don't pray as much as I ought to pray. But lest I become a Hard-shell, I find myself more and more praying, "Lord, keep Thy Baptist churches faithful until Jesus comes."

In my last report, I failed to mention, that we had visited the new independent Baptist church in Tucson, Arizona of whom Bro. Will Bang is the pastor. I must say, that this was a great privilege and blessing. It was a real blessing in the morning service to hear Bro. Bang expound from the Scriptures on sin or total depravity. I don't remember ever

hearing a greater sermon on depravity. The beloved brother has great spiritual discernment concerning the Word of God, and is just the one to pastor this new church. But with such a statement, I find myself constrained to say, "Brethren, pray for this man and this beloved church, that God might keep them faithful until Jesus comes."

It was a privilege to preach for this church in the evening service. They say that another church has been found in this aforementioned city in which the Lord Jesus Christ receives the glory. This I would have to see, as a man deserted the church we visited with and joined with this other church. This deserter may have come out of the Southern Baptist Convention, but has the things which this one imbibed while in S.B.C. come out of this man? It is just as I had wondered about a certain Baptist(?) church in Decatur, Illinois that I visited about two years ago. Although there were a few brethren who were sound in the faith in this church, the information that I received, was that they were loosely or slightly associated with the Baptist Bible Fellowship. I have yet to know of any-

thing good that came out of B.B.F., that is, unless it came all the way out. Since the time I visited this church, the pastor has practically denied the faith! See how a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump! Read II Cor 6:14-18. Verses 17 and 18, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; (we can't even touch the unclean thing and remain clean) and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

In the World Book Encyclopedia of 1967, under Major Religious Bodies in the United States, the Roman Catholics are first with a membership of 44,874,371. Second were Baptists consisting of 20 groups totaling 12, 760,813. The Independent Baptists were not even listed unless it was under the heading of Regular Baptists 17,186. The leading group was Southern Baptist Convention 10,393,039. Oh! how by nature, we like to go with the crowd. But in this crooked and perverse generation, and with the apostasy that is upon us, all these Baptists cannot be churches of the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, I will stay with the despised Independent Baptists. And should any of them become independent of the Word of God and the Blessed Holy Spirit, may I have the courage to become independent of them.

In my last report, I mentioned that we had gone into debt again

line situation, we could end up stranded in the middle of nowhere.

If this gas shortage gets much shorter, I will probably get a horse with which to do mission work. I don't think I could go back to bare back riding, but I might manage to stay in a saddle.

In our last report, I told about the Navajo man who came to our home after I had preached to him in the local jail. Remember, I reported that he had said that he wanted to live for God and help us with the work. The thing I failed to tell you, is that he borrowed \$10.00 from me just before he left. He said that he needed the money to have his glasses repaired in order to help me. This is the last I saw of him. Once more, I have tried to believe an Indian and once again I have found out that all men are liars.

I will close by asking your prayers that the Lord Almighty might be pleased to grant us journeying mercies and that we might be spared from the awful weather and tornadoes which are plaguing our nation.

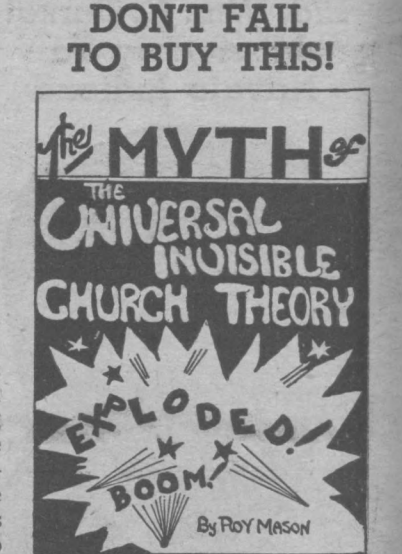
Ephesians 6:24.

Why... A Baptist?

(Continued from page seven) without a doubt there were Baptist Churches then, as all churches were then Baptists" — John Clark Ridpath, historian and a Methodist.

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

"If it were not for the fact that Baptists have been grievously tormented and cut off with the knife during the past 1200 years, they would swarm greater than all the reformers... if the true religion were to be judged by the readiness and boldness by which a man or any sect shows suffering, then the opinions and persuasions of no sect can be truer and surer than those of the Ana-baptists, since there have been none for the 1200 years past that have been more cheerfully and steadfastly unmoveable, and offered themselves to the most cruel sort of punishment than these people" — Cardinal Hosius, President of the Roman Catholic



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Council of Trent (1545-1563). "The footsteps of the Baptists of the ages can more easily be traced by blood than by baptism. It is a lineage of suffering rather than a succession of Bishops; a golden cord of love rather than an iron chain of succession, which, while attempting to rattle its links back to the Apostles, has been of more service in chaining some protesting Baptists to the stake than a proclaiming of the truth of the New Testament. It is, nevertheless, a right royal succession, that in every age the Baptists have been advocates of liberty for all and have held that the Gospel of the Son of God makes every man a free man in Jesus Christ" — John T. Christian, Historian.

"The reformation every where had its defects and sins, which it is impossible to justify. How cruel was the persecution of the Ana-Baptists, who by no means were only revolutionary fanatics but for the most part, simple, honest Christians and suffered and died for liberty of conscience and the separation of church and state. I hope God has something better and greater in store for His church than the reformation" — Martin Luther.

Our Lord was a Baptist. The Apostles were Baptists. The Baptists have been the representatives of Christ since He went away. Great men confirm that the church our Lord built was a Baptist Church. This brings me to ask you, who are not Baptists, a very pointed question, "Why aren't you a Baptist?"

LOOKS FORWARD TO TBE

I sure do enjoy TBE! It is the only Baptist paper I know that is standing for the Book. I hope the good Lord will give you many more years of work as Editor of TBE.

John T. White
Blairsville, Ga. 30512

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in order to carry on the work more effectively. While in Tucson we purchased a mini motor home which has proven quite useful already. It is fully self-contained with a flush toilet and all. And with this vehicle my wife and I can go to different areas of this large reservation and spend a week at a time ministering unto the people before returning to our mobile home. We just completed two weeks recently at Lukachukai where I carried on an intensive house to house visiting and preaching tour, while my wife got together with a few women and made quilts for needy ones. We also passed out some used clothing which came from a church in Michigan; although we now receive the most of this clothing from a woman in Farmington, N. M., who runs a used clothing store and is a member of a S.B.C. church there.

Oh, yes, a new Baptist church was organized recently in Phoenix, Arizona. Praise the Lord! May He help her to be faithful until He comes. And may the Lord raise up some sound Baptist churches in the northwestern and far north central states. I would like to have a reason for visiting in those states. That is the only part of the country in which I have never been. If there are any churches up there that the Lord would own, please sound off.

We plan to travel in our mini motor home on our trip which is a sort of combination vacation, fellowship with churches of like precious faith, and second honeymoon. Why do I say second honeymoon? If a woman can spend 27 years with one man, especially this one, I believe she deserves a second honeymoon. Don't you? This is our plan. But it may be decreed otherwise. Our vehicle only averages eight miles to the gallon. And with the gaso-

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JUNE 23, 1973
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