

# The Baptist Examiner

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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 Independent Baptist Churches Exist

By ELD. ROY MASON  
Tampa, Florida

(Taken from an Old Manuscript)

I am a Baptist by personal conviction. I have been thrown among Southern Baptists most of my life. I love Southern Baptists and through past years have been proud of them, regarding them as the greatest body of evangelical Christians on the face of the earth. I wrote a book some years ago entitled, "The Church That Jesus Built," in which I set forth the truth that Jesus started the Baptists and that Baptist churches have been in existence continuously from then until now. This book has been published ten different times, and it has made Baptists out of many people. It has been used as a supplemental text book in several of our Baptist colleges and in at least one seminary. Years ago I went as a missionary to Brazil under the Baptist Foreign Mission Board, and remained until I had to bring my wife home to a hospital in order to save her life. I have served

a number of Baptist churches as pastor down through the years, and all of these were affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. I have been pastor of the same Baptist church in Tampa for nearly a quarter of a century, and I do not recall a single month during that time that my church failed to send money for cooperative purposes through the regular Baptist co-operative channels. I am saying all this in order to substantiate my claim that I am a Baptist, and as a preface to what I am about to say.

Back when I became a Baptist, churches were free. Real freedom existed. No attempt was made on the part of any outside agency to run a Baptist church. Baptist papers devoted much space to the teaching of Baptist doctrines and principles. They were privately owned and in order to live they had to ring so true to Baptist convictions that people would support them. They spoke out against error and wrong, in no uncertain terms. Very little was said about

"The Denomination" back there, but much was said about the churches.

Changes — For The Worse!

I have seen some great changes take place, and in my judgment for the worse. I have seen a great ecclesiastical organization grow up, which has come to overshadow the churches. Baptist papers have passed under denominational control and subsidy. Most of them have ceased to teach the great doctrines, or to contend for a separated life. They have very



ROY MASON

## Will Anyone Come To Jesus Who Was Not Chosen In Him

By C. H. SPURGEON

The greatest absurdity in the world is to want to have a wider gospel than that recorded in the Scriptures. I preach that every man that believes shall be saved — that every man who comes shall find mercy.

People ask me, "But suppose a man should come who was not chosen, would he be saved?" You go and suppose nonsense and I am not going to give you an answer. If a man is not chosen, he will never come. When he does

except the Father draw him."

"But," says one, "suppose all the world should come, would Christ receive them?" Certainly, if all came; but then they *would* come. I tell you *all that come* — aye, if they were as bad as devils, Christ would receive them; if they had all sin and filthiness running into their hearts as into a common sewer for the whole world, Christ would receive them.

Another says, "I want to know about the rest of the people. May I go out and tell them — Jesus Christ died for every one of you? May I say — there is righteousness for every one of you, there is life for every one of you?" No; you may not. You may say — there is life for every man that comes. But if you say there is life for one of those that do not believe, you utter a dangerous lie. If you tell them that Jesus Christ was punished for their sins, and yet they will be lost, you tell a wilful falsehood. To think that God could punish Christ and then daring to have the impudence to punish them — I wonder that you say so!

A good man was once preaching that there were harps and (Continued on page 6, column 4)



C. H. Spurgeon

come, it is a sure proof that he was chosen.

Says one, "Suppose any one should go to Christ who had not been called of the Spirit." Stop, my brother, that is a supposition thou hast no right to make, for such a thing *cannot* happen; you only say it to entangle me, and you will not do that just yet. I say every man who comes to Christ shall be saved. I can say that as a Calvinist, or as a hyper-Calvinist, as plainly as you can say it. I have no narrower gospel than you have; only my gospel is from a solid foundation, whereas yours is built upon nothing but sand and rottenness. "Every man that cometh shall be saved, for no man cometh to me

"Faint, yet pursuing."—Judges 8:4.  
In Judges 7, we have that over familiar story about Gideon's three hundred, how with pitchers and lamps, and with a shout whereby they said, "The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon," these three hundred men wrought a victory the like of which was never known in all the annals of history. There were a hundred and thirty-five thousand of the Midianites. There were only three hundred of these Jews under

largely become bulletins to promote "our work." Editors know perfectly well that they cannot speak out against any abuses that may arise in any institution supported by the denomination, unless they want to jeopardize their job. Many of the great old Baptists with their staunch convictions have died off, and have been replaced with younger men, some of whom have been touched with modern liberalism. The programs of the churches have been made out by "the leaders" of the denomination and have been handed down. The "Co-operative Program" of Southern Baptists has become a holy thing that claims a greater loyalty than does the doctrines of the Bible. A church or pastor can be badly tainted with modernism and can remain in perfect fellowship but if they deviate from the "whole Program" they are looked upon with suspicion and disfavor. How do I know this? I know it by personal experience. My own long ministry with one church has rung true (Continued on page 6, column 3)

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## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor John R. Gilpin

### "FAINT, YET PURSUING"

"Faint, yet pursuing."—Judges 8:4.

In Judges 7, we have that over familiar story about Gideon's three hundred, how with pitchers and lamps, and with a shout whereby they said, "The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon," these three hundred men wrought a victory the like of which was never known in all the annals of history. There were a hundred and thirty-five thousand of the Midianites. There were only three hundred of these Jews under

Gideon. That meant that Gideon and his men were out-numbered 450 to one, which is pretty good odds. A man would have to be quite a fighter to be able to take on 450 individuals, yet that is what these three hundred men under Gideon did, and they won a remarkable victory. The seventh chapter tells us about the victory. The eighth chapter is a continuation of it. It tells how Gideon and his three hundred men continued pursuing after these individuals of the Midianite army. They kept

killing them — destroying them. Finally, my text says:

"And Gideon came to Jordan, and passed over, he, and the three hundred men that were with him FAINT, YET PURSUING THEM."

I can imagine that they would be tired. I can imagine that they would be faint. I can imagine that after a long night's battle, and a day of battle, that they would be exceedingly worn and faint. Yet their job isn't done yet. (Continued on page 2, column 1)

## Dawning Of A Better Day

FRED T. HALLIMAN  
New Guinea Missionary

"Moreover I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father, honour and glory, when there came such a voice to Him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with Him in the holy mount. We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, UNTIL THE DAY DAWN, AND THE DAY STAR ARISE IN YOUR HEARTS." (II Peter 1:15-19).

"... the day goeth away, for THE SHADOWS OF THE EVENING ARE STRETCHED OUT." (Jeremiah 6:41).

The End Foretold By The Lord Jesus

Having received ample notice from Israel that they would officially and unequivocally reject Him as the promised Messiah, and knowing this and all things aforetime, the omniscient Christ, in Matthew 13, delivers a series of parables which describe the "Kingdom of Heaven" during the absence of the King.

We call attention to the second, which our Lord explains in verses 36 to 43, by demonstrating that this age will end, and will end in judgment, because the world will increasingly reject Christ, even to the point of accepting the Antichrist. Let us read:

"Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and His disciples came unto Him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares in the field. He answered and said unto them, He



FRED T. HALLIMAN

that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world (consummation of the age); and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the (Continued on page 5, column 2)

## You Ought To Be Scared By The Big Snake In A Bottle

By MILBURN COCKRELL  
Mantachie, Mississippi

"Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder" (Prov. 23:31-32).

The wise man discloses in these words that alcohol is a snake in a bottle. Those who have dealings with it are playing with a rattlesnake. The word "alcohol" is derived from the Arabic words, "al ghouli" which means "the devil." Apparently the one who coined the term had seen the havoc and heartache strong drink creates.

In our time people are alarmed at the growing number of persons on drugs and narcotics. But little is being said about a killer who stalks the lives of millions. While drug stores captures the headlines, alcoholism devastates the lives of millions of people. Churches have hushed their campaigns against ethyl alcohol. Yet alcohol is ruining lives, wrecking marriages and breaking homes by the millions.

### ALCOHOLISM IN AMERICA

Alcoholism is the fourth-ranking public problem in this coun-

try. Only heart disease and cancer causes more deaths. There are over nine million alcoholics in America. One out of every thirty-six is a victim of this curse. Three-hundred and fifty thousand gasp out their last breath because of this deadly evil each year. Somewhere around twenty-five million people in the United States are directly affected by chronic alcoholism. This includes the families of alcoholics which means one-eighth of the population. It is believed that half a million new victims are added every



MILBURN COCKRELL

year to the number of drunks. Americans spend twelve billion dollars annually on ethyl alcohol. The consumption of distilled spirits in 1967 was estimated at more than three hundred twenty-five million gallons. The Internal Revenue Service collected \$3,441,656,000 in taxes from liquor in 1965. The Medical World has gone on record as calling alcoholism America's most destructive drug problem. It is the most widely used drug among teen-agers. About five-hundred sixty thousand youths are involved in excessive drinking. The users are up forty-one per cent. The age when drinking begins is now twelve. (Continued on page 7, column 3)



## The Baptist Examiner

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JOHN R. GILPIN.....Editor

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## PLEASE DO NOT SEND US TAPES

We are asking our readers again not to send us tapes as we cannot make use of them apart from a great deal of extra work on our part.

Our recording facilities are located nearly three miles from our office where we take care of all our business, editing, and correspondence. If someone sends a tape, it is necessary that we travel three miles in each direction to listen to the tape and frankly, beloved, I do not have the time nor the physical ability to do so.

Ever since my sickness and hospitalization last November, it has been necessary that I limit my activities and accordingly, I have had to return a good number of tapes — not listening to them. It isn't that I would not enjoy them if I had the time, but under the circumstances, I cannot do so. I feel that I must conserve every bit of energy that I can for the editing of the paper, and I must ask our brethren not to send us tapes as we have made it a strict, firm rule to return them unused.

If conditions were as they once were, it would be a joy to me to listen to the tapes that are sent me. However, we have had to make this a firm rule and irrespective of who it may be, all tapes are being returned unused.

If this seems unduly harsh to you, then please forgive us, and pray for us. Remember, if you write me, you'll get an immediate reply as your letters are always carefully taken care of.

## "Faint... Pursuing"

(Continued from page one)

As long as there is one of these Midianites left alive, their task isn't finished. So the Word of God says, "Faint, yet pursuing." They continued at the task to destroy this Midianite army.

Beloved, I have a feeling that you and I get discouraged and tired — physically, spiritually,

and mentally. Sometimes we feel like giving up. To use the expression of the boxing world, we feel like throwing in the sponge — just quitting. I am satisfied that there isn't a member of this church but what sometime or other has felt like just quitting — "I am not going to try any longer. I have so many problems — problems in my home, problems in our church, problems among my friends. I am just going to quit, and sit down and do nothing."

Whenever I think of this, I think of the war that was fought several years ago when the United States went into the Battle of Lake Erie. The commander ran up the flag on the ships out on Lake Erie, and when it looked like the battle was going to go against them entirely, Admiral Perry sent out the message, "Don't give up the ship."

I am wondering if perhaps that wouldn't be a good message in itself for everyone of us — "Don't give up the ship."

The Apostle Paul, in speaking about the same phase of life, said:

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and HAVING DONE ALL, TO STAND."—Eph. 6:13.

Beloved, when you can't do anything else, just continue to stand.

The more I think about my text, I am reminded of the farmer who had milked his cows and started to the house. Something came up to divert his attention and he set down his bucket of milk and forgot about it and went on in the house. Along came a couple of frogs and jumped upon the pail and down inside. One of them said, "I'll never get out of here," and he just sank down and drowned. The other one said, "I'm going to try to get out," and he just kept jumping up and down, up and down, up and down, trying to get out. The first thing he knew, he had churned a cake of butter. When the farmer came out the next morning, there was one dead frog down in the bottom of the pail and a live one sitting upon a cake of butter. I think he was singing "Amazing Grace." At any rate, he didn't give up.

I am wondering how many dead frogs there are in Baptist churches today, and I am wondering how many are sitting on a cake of butter singing "Amazing Grace." I tell you, beloved, God's people haven't any business giving up.

I  
**IT IS JUST HUMAN NATURE TO FAINT AND QUIT.**

When troubles come and problems arise, and when we are confronted with all kinds of difficulties, it is just human nature to throw in the sponge, to throw up our hands, to wave the white flag, and to walk off defeated.

When Job's three miserable comforters came to see him in his trials, that was one thing that they accused Job of. They said:

"Thou hast instructed many, and thou hast strengthened the weak hands. Thy words have upheld him that was falling, and thou hast strengthened the feeble knees. But now it is come upon thee, and THOU FAINTEST."—Job 4:3-5.

I don't know whether they were right in their accusation or not, but at least that was the ac-

## TO HOLD REVIVAL BEGINNING JULY 23

Brother Dan Phillips of Bristol, Tennessee, will be engaged in a revival meeting with the Bryantsville Missionary Baptist



ELD. DAN PHILLIPS

Church of Bryantsville, Ky., beginning July 23.

This church is located about thirty miles south of Lexington, Ky., on Highway 27 at Bryantsville. It is pastored by Brother Don Prewitt, who is indeed a good man and a sound Baptist.

Brother Phillips is one of our long-time friends, who is a good Bible preacher, and all who love Bible preaching would be blessed by attending services with the Bryantsville's church during this revival.

May I ask, beloved, that you remember them definitely in prayer that God will bless this revival effort.

cusation that these miserable comforters brought to Job. I am sure that what they said to Job could be said to every individual within this world, because it is just human nature to faint and to quit.

Take Jeremiah as a good example. In Jeremiah 20, we read how Jeremiah had gotten in trouble with the government because of his preaching, and he had been publicly whipped. As if that were not enough punishment, he was publicly humiliated by putting his feet in stocks. He sits out in the public with his feet in the stocks, to the gaze, the humiliation, the shame and public scorn of everybody that passed by. Jeremiah said, "I am just going to quit the ministry. I am through. I am not going to preach any more. I'll never lift my voice again to preach. Listen: "Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay."—Jer. 20:9.

Jeremiah quit the ministry, but the Lord made him get back in. Jeremiah threw in the sponge, but the Lord made him go on preaching.

I say, it is just human nature for people to faint, to become weary, and to quit in whatever they are doing. We have a mighty good example of that in the case of Jonah. I am sure that you remember some of the experiences that Jonah had, particularly that one experience after he got out of the belly of the whale, when he preached and had such great results, so far as the preaching was concerned, and then pouted because God had saved everybody. He wasn't like the majority of preachers today. He pouted because God saved them. The Lord made a shade to grow up over him, to shield him, and then God prepared a worm that ate that tree and caused it to die. Then we read Jonah's experience:

"And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that HE FAINTED, and

wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live."—Jonah 4:8.

Notice, Jonah pouted because he saw the whole city saved. God made a shade to grow up over him. Then God prepared a worm that killed the tree. Then God sent a vehement east wind upon him. As he sat there in the sun with that vehement east wind beating upon him, he fainted, and he said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

I say, beloved, the experience of Jeremiah, the experience of Jonah, and what the friends of Job accused him of is certainly characteristic of human nature. It is just human nature to faint and to quit. It is just human nature to be a quitter.

### II GOD DOESN'T FAINT.

God never gives up. Listen: "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, FAINT-ETH NOT, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding."—Isa. 40:28.

What do they say about God the Father? It says that He "fainteth not."

Do you want to be God-like? I tell you, beloved, it ought to be the desire of everyone of us to be God-like. It ought to be the desire of each person that has come into this service to be like God. Well, if you would be God-like, you'll not be a quitter. You won't be a fainter. You won't faint by the way. God does not faint.

### III THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS DIDN'T FAINT.

The church at Ephesus had enough to cause them to quit. We read:

"And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and HAST NOT FAINTED."—Rev. 2:3.

Notice, this church at Ephesus did not give up. They just didn't quit. It says that "thou hast not fainted."

The church at Ephesus had a lot of problems. When the Apostle Paul went there to preach, he stayed longer at Ephesus than any place else. He had a three year ministry in Ephesus. The next longest place that he preached at was at Corinth, when he stayed there for a year and a half. But he stayed in Ephesus for three years' time — the longest ministry that Paul had anywhere. When Paul was in Ephesus, he met lots of problems, for

there was baptism that had to be corrected. Twelve men came along and said that they had Scriptural baptism. But when Paul explained baptism to them, they were re-baptized. Then Paul had to get out of the synagogue and go to the school of Tyrannus in order to preach, and there were certain miracles that were performed as a result of his preaching. There were all kinds of problems, even including the burning of the books of the men of black magic of the city. Finally, the silversmiths rose up as a trade union in opposition to the Apostle Paul. All these things took place, yet this church at Ephesus didn't quit. John, in writing to them later on, said, "And hast not fainted. They have been a tremendous help and encouragement to me when I look at this church at Ephesus to see that they have not fainted. They have kept at the job."

I have often thought in this respect of the old foxhound that started out early one morning and a deer crossed his path. The hound was feeling good, and he started baying on the trail, and running after that deer like he expected to catch it in sixty seconds. But after a while, the deer track got dim, the trail got cold, and the old hound got tired. Presently, a fox crossed the path and he forgot about the deer and started after the fox, running the same way. He followed after the fox for a while until the trail got cold, and the old hound got tired, and a rabbit crossed his path. All day long, that old hound switched from one thing to another, until finally, when night time came, his owner found him sitting on his tail, out in the swamp, barking up a gum tree at a contemptible little ground squirrel.

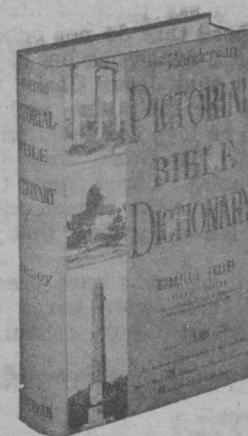
Beloved, there are an awful lot of people just exactly like that hound. There are an awful lot of people who are just exactly that way. They are not like the church at Ephesus. These Ephesian Christians did not faint. They went right at the task, and they kept at the task, and as my text says, they were "faint, yet pursuing."

### IV GOD'S MERCY KEEPS US FROM FAINTING.

The only thing that keeps any Christian going, and the only thing that keeps any child of God busy in the service of the Lord is the mercy of the Lord. Listen:

"Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not." — II Cor. (Continued on page 3, column 1)

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

JULY 7, 1973

PAGE TWO



## "Faint . . . Pursuing"

(Continued from page two)

4:1. Paul said, "The reason I keep going in the ministry of the Lord is because of the mercy of God. As we receive mercy, I faint not." I tell you, beloved, there is nothing like the mercy of God to keep one going. When you look about every day, think about the mercies of God — the sunshine, all the air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink, all of God's bounties all around us, and especially, above all else, the fact that Jesus Christ went to the cross of Calvary and died for our sins.

Paul said, "I have received a ministry and the thing that keeps me from fainting is the fact that we have received mercy to carry us along in this ministry. Then he goes on to say:

"For which cause **WE FAINT NOT; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.**"—II Cor. 4:16.

What is he saying? He is saying that while the muscles of the body grow weaker, the muscles of the soul grow stronger; that some of these days, the muscles of the soul are going to pull away from the muscles of the body, and fly out into space, but for right now, we don't faint. Even though the outward man gets weaker, the inward man is renewed from day to day.

I tell you, beloved, it is the mercy of God that keeps us from fainting, and only God's mercy.

When Jonah was down in the belly of that fish, that was quite an experience. I can see him now as a disobedient prophet of the Lord, as he runs from the Lord. When he gets down into the belly of the fish, he wanted to get close to the Lord. Isn't that strange? He was running from God, and now he wants to snuggle up close to Him. The Word of God says:

"When my soul **FAINTED** **WITHIN ME I REMEMBERED THE LORD;** and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple."—Jonah 2:7.

Notice that the only thing that kept Jonah from fainting entirely was the fact that he remembered the Lord.

Beloved, listen, it is the mercy of God that keeps each of us from fainting every day. I am satisfied that there isn't a one of you that would be thinking of going to church today if it were not for the mercy of God. If God hadn't kept you through the years, if God's mercy hadn't been extended to you continually, you would have given up a long time ago. Oh, isn't it pathetic that so many haven't had that mercy extended to them sufficiently, and they have given up because of a lack of the mercy of God that has kept you going?

### V

#### GOD EXHORTS US NOT TO FAINT.

We have exhortations in the Bible that we are not to faint. Listen:

"And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought

always, to pray, and **NOT TO FAINT.**"—Luke 18:1.

This goes on to tell the story of the widow woman who came to a judge and said, "Avenge me of mine adversary." The judge said, "I don't fear God, and I do not fear man. I don't care about God, and I don't care about man. But this woman worries me. She is a burden to me. In order to get rid of her, to keep her from coming continually to me, to keep her from continually being a burden to me, I'll do what she wants." Then Jesus said, "And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?"

I ask you, are you weary? Are you tired? Are you constrained to fall by the wayside? Do you feel like saying, "I just can't stand for the truth any longer?" Well, beloved, remember this, the Lord exhorts us not to faint, and instead of fainting, He exhorts us to pray, for He says, "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint."

Listen again:

"I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord."—Psa. 27:13.

If I hadn't believed, if I hadn't trusted Him, if I hadn't trusted in Him, I would have fainted. Beloved, God exhorts us, I say, not to faint.

### VI

#### WHEN CHASTENED, DON'T FAINT.

When the Lord chastens you, that is the time to fall back on Him. When I use the word "chasten," that is a good Bible term. It literally means that God beats the Devil out of us — and that is what He does. He whips us. He just has to beat the Devil out of us sometimes. He has to whip us hard.

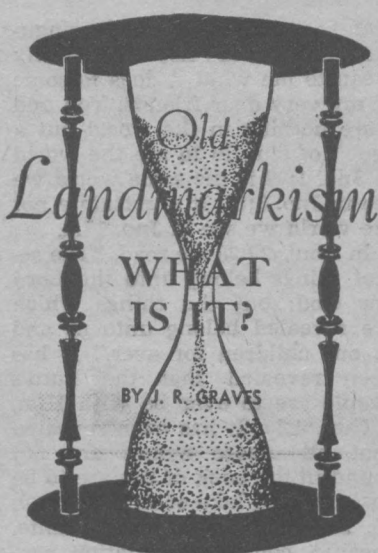
We read:

"And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, NOR FAINT when thou art rebuked of him."—Heb. 12:15.

Has God been chastening you? When the chastisement has fallen upon you, do you feel that you want to give up? Notice what it says: "Despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him."

When Simon Peter betrayed his Lord, he got mighty faint. Three times people came to him out there in the garden on the night after Jesus was arrested and pointed the finger and said, "You are one of His disciples," and three times Simon Peter denied it. Finally, Simon Peter had all he could take, and he cursed and blasphemed in order to prove to them that he didn't belong to the Lord. Then afterwards, he saw Jesus looking at him, and he went out and wept bitterly.

Simon Peter was just about ready to give up. He is on the verge of being a quitter of the worst kind. He is about ready to throw in the sponge. He is about ready to faint entirely. About that time, he hears an old rooster crow, and that is the sweetest music that Simon Peter ever



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heard, because that called to mind the words of Jesus, when Jesus said, "Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice." It reminded him of the fact that Jesus Christ knew all about this and Jesus Christ had planned it all. It was all according to the program of Almighty God.

The Word of God tells us later on, of Simon Peter preaching on the day of Pentecost, and three thousand souls were saved. A little girl had pointed her finger at him and said, "I saw you in the garden." The man who had lied, and denied, and said, "No, not me," now stands up and says to that crowd, "You killed Him."

I tell you, beloved, here is a man that didn't faint when he was chastened. God chastened him all right, but he didn't faint.

I like to think about David in the Old Testament. He had quite a chastening experience as a result of his sin with Bathsheba and his sin of murdering her husband. If you will read that story, you will find that David said:

"Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation."—Psa. 51:12.

David had lost all the joy of his salvation. The joy was gone — not his salvation, but the joy of it. He is a miserable man. He said:

"Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice."—Psa. 51:8.

David was so miserable that he thought God had broken every bone in his body. But a little while later, we find David sitting down and penning the sweetest psalm, which to my mind, he ever wrote, when he said:

"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile."—Psa. 32:1,2.

Beloved, when David was chastened, he didn't faint. He came back to the Lord.

I have a preacher friend who has been quite a burden to me of recent date. About a year ago, at a time of sickness and faintness, when the Lord was chastening him, he started drinking, using whiskey for medicine. It got the better of him. He became a sot drunkard. I called him up a few days ago, over long distance, just to talk with him. He was evasive. He is still in as bad a shape as he was, and worse than that, lying about it. He has fainted when he was chastened.

I say to you, beloved, when God chastens you, don't faint. Be like David. Come back to say, as David said, "Blessed is the man." Be like the Apostle Peter who came back to preach on the day of Pentecost, with three thousand souls being saved. When God chastens us, don't faint.

### VII

#### DON'T FAINT — REAPING COMES.

We are reminded of the fact that there is a day of harvest, if you don't faint. Listen:

"And let us not be weary in

well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." — Gal. 6:9.

Let's look at it from the standpoint of agriculture. It gets awfully hot sometimes in the summer, and when you are using a hoe, it seems like the heat from the ground just burns you. When you are out there working in the garden, and it hasn't rained for several days, and it doesn't look like anything is going to grow, oh, it would be so easy to say, "I might as well forget about it. I might as well forget about this crop. We'll start over next year. We'll raise a crop next year and we'll forget about this one."

I am satisfied that there's many a preacher, many a Sunday School teacher, and many a Christian worker who comes to the same place in life and says, "Oh, why go on? I might just as well quit."

I stand here this morning and look out at this small congregation and see at least ten people that I pray for time after time, that I would like to see saved, yet you walk out of the building on Sunday morning and go away unsaved. At least, you go out without making a profession of faith. What am I going to do? Give up? What shall I do? Faint? What shall I do? Say, "Well, I have done all that I can do; I'll just have to dismiss these individuals and forget about them?" No! Paul said, "Let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

I want to tell you, beloved, there is a promise there to me, and that promise is that God is going to bless His Word that goes out, and He is going to prosper that Word, and His Word is going to bring forth results.

I am satisfied that it may be with some of you like it was with John Flavel, an English preacher of the years gone by. John Flavel preached, and eighty-six years later, an old man ninety-six years of age remembered the sermon and was saved. The text was:

"If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha."—I Cor. 16:22.

In other words, "Let him be accursed; our Lord is coming."

That old man, eighty-six years old, said, "I heard that text that John Flavel preached. The text was: 'If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed.' I didn't love Him. Then I was accursed. As I meditated upon that text, I was saved."

I tell you, beloved, I have a constant desire to see you saved, but at the same time, I have a firm assurance that God's Word shall never return void, and in His own time, God will bless.

There has to be a reaping. If we are faithful, if you parents who are saved are faithful, and

you do the best you can to remain faithful, and I do likewise from this pulpit, some of these days there is going to be a reaping time come.

### VIII

#### GOD GIVES A PROMISE TO THE INDIVIDUAL WHO DOES NOT FAINT.

To the individual who keeps going, to the individual who keeps serving and striving, God has a promise for that individual. Listen:

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and **NOT FAINT.**"—Isa. 40:31.

I tell you, beloved, here is a marvelous promise for you and me, as God's children, and that promise is that we ought to stay mighty close to the Lord. We ought to keep close to Him. We ought to wait on the Lord. If we do, we have this assurance, that "they shall walk and not faint."

### CONCLUSION

You say, "Brother Gilpin, it is so easy to give up. It is so easy to just quit. It is so easy to just say, 'Well, there is no need to try any longer.'"

Solomon said: "If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small."—Prov. 24:10.

Beloved, you don't have much strength if you faint.

Oh, might it please God to reach down and cause those of

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you who are saved to be encouraged. Might it please God to cause those of you who are members of this church to take a fresh grip on God, and walk out of this place and say, "God helping me, and God directing and guiding me, I am going to stay close to Him. I'm not going to faint. I'm not going to give up. I'm just going to keep busy and trust the Lord for results."

Might it please God also to touch that man or woman who is here that is unsaved, to cause you to realize that Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins. May you trust Him today, and be saved, and may you take your stand with us and say, "God helping me, I won't faint. I'll keep busy in service for Him." May God bless you!



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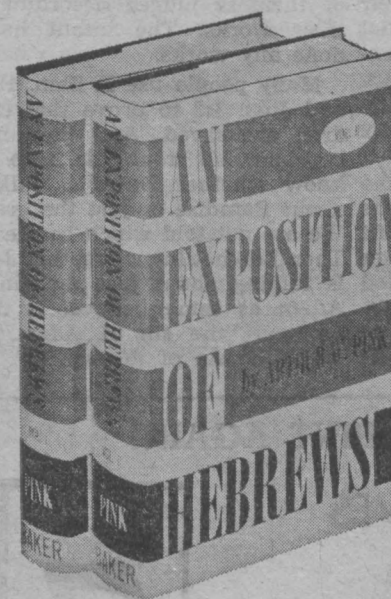
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PAGE THREE



## The Baptist Examiner FORUM

"My father doesn't think that children can be saved. He says the Bible says we have to repent and a child cannot repent. Will you please answer?"



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If repentance were one of the qualifications that one must meet in order to secure spiritual life, I would agree with your dad for I, too, know that babies in the flesh have no capacity for repentance. Spiritual repentance is turning from false doctrine to the truth. Thus, for one to repent, he must change his mind as to the way in which he is walking, and turn to the following of Jesus Christ who is the way, the truth and the life. For one to need repentance, he must have walked in darkness (false doctrine). Those who have never walked in error do not need to repent or turn about. To your Dad may I state that babies are not guilty of walking in paths of unrighteousness (error), they cannot turn (repent) from evil of which they are not guilty. I am not saying that babies are not sinners. I know they are born in sin, conceived in sin, and shapen in iniquity. What I am saying is they have not walked in the ways of salvation by works, falling from grace and denying the sovereignty of God like some of us have, for which we have repented. To state that babies must repent ere they can have spiritual life is to contend as does your Dad that no babies could ever be saved.

I have a little one whom the Lord took by death. I firmly believe he is with the Lord, but my hope is not based upon the child repenting because he never repented. But if repentance precedes spiritual life, then your Dad would be right, and all babies are condemned. Brethren, the Scriptures do not teach that repentance must precede spiritual life, rather they teach that no man in Adam can repent, for they (Scriptures) teach that man is totally depraved, dead in trespasses and sins, and thus unable to repent or turn toward God. Were we to teach repentance before regeneration, we would have to deny the doctrine of the inability of the sinner. We are very much aware that dead men cannot change or turn about as they have no ears to hear with, their eyes are blinded to spiritual things and they have no discernment of the things of God. Thus, babies as well as adults must be resurrected (quickened) ere they can repent.

Repentance therefore is the fruit of regeneration, and not its cause. The flesh does not profit one in coming to Christ, neither is it a hindrance to Almighty God in its drawing back. God, in regenerating His children, needs no help or assistance because He is

the giver of life, and His children meet no condition ere they are conceived by the Holy Spirit. This would include babies as well as all others. This view is substantiated by the Lord's description of Israel as a small babe unable to help herself, yet God spoke to her in her own blood saying, "Live," and life came to her.

"And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live: yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live." Ezekiel 16:6.

In the same way God says to His elect, "Live," and life comes to them. Therefore, I have the same hope for babies as I do for adults. Brethren, the man 20 years or 80 years old is just as helpless as a baby in the realm of spiritual life. He has no more ability to repent than does a 20 day or 0 day old baby. Repentance is a gift of God, and given only to His children to whom He (God) has given the ability to distinguish between truth and error. Repentance causes one to turn to the truth, and for one to truly repent, he must first have knowledge of the truth to which he turns. Thus, true repentance must come through a true Baptist church contending for the truth. There are many outside of the truth who are regenerated but have never repented for they continue in the path of error. Babies in like manner are given life, but they are taken to be with the Lord before they ever walked in paths of sin to repent of.

E. G.  
Cook

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The more I study this subject, the more I realize I know nothing about it. In II Cor. 5:10 we see the saved people standing before the judgment seat of Christ. There we will be judged according to the deeds done in the body. The infant hasn't done any deeds. In Rev. 20:12-13 we see the dead (spiritually dead) standing before the great white throne. Everyone of them is judged according to their works. The infant hasn't done any works.

Many people use II Sam. 12:23 and John 1:2 to prove that children are saved. And they may be right. My trouble is, I do not know whether David is talking about Paradise or just the grave. We are not told which he means. Then I do not know whether John is talking about just the sin of Adam as some believe. It does not say "the sin of Adam." It says "the sin of the world." The

fact that the word sin is singular here does not necessarily mean to me what it does to some of my very dear friends. You and I are nothing in the world but a "gob" of sin. So to me the world in Jno. 1:29 is the same world we see in Jno. 3:16. It is certainly not the world we see in Jno. 17:9.

In Deut. 29:29 we read, "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but the things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever." It has been revealed that the Lord's people are to ever be with Him, I Thes. 4:17. It has been revealed that all whose names are not found in the book of life are to be cast into the lake of fire, Rev. 20:15. But if there is any definite, specific, concrete revelation concerning the eternal destiny of infants I have not been able to find it. So I conclude that their eternal destiny is one of the secret things that belongs to the Lord our God. The only thing that I am sure of concerning their destiny is that it is in the hands of a just and righteous God. And what a wonderful place for it to be. I would not want it to be any other way.

To be sure, an infant cannot repent. Neither can a fifty-year-old man repent until repentance is given to him, Acts 11:18. Everything pertaining to our salvation is a gift from God. And He can give it to anyone He wants to give it to, Job 23:13 and Jno. 5:21.

ROY  
MASON  
RADIO MINISTER  
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I am glad to say that your father is very wrong. One Scripture is quite sufficient to prove this. It is found in Matt. 18:6: "But whoso shall offend one of these LITTLE ONES which BELIEVE IN ME, it were better for him that a mill stone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

Jesus was talking there about children. Not only was he talking about children, but about SAVED children, for he said, "that BELIEVETH ON ME." Believers are saved, young or old. Acts 13:39 says, "By him all that believe are justified."

Added to this, I have known many children that were saved, and that bore evidence of salvation in their lives and behavior. Now as to a child repenting, why should a child not be able to repent? In my own case, I was saved when I was 14 years of age, and I was as concerned about my sins as if I had been far older. I turned from them unto Christ.

One trouble is, many people misunderstand the meaning of repentance. They seem to think that repentance is a process of mourning and crying and begging God, when it is nothing of the kind. To repent is to turn about face—to quit going away from God and to turn toward him. The Philippian jailer cried out to Paul, "What must I do to be saved?" Did Paul tell him to repent? He did not. Why? Because the man was already repentant. He had turned about from his former life and wanted to know how to get right, and Paul said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." He evidently did so, as did members of his household, and they were baptized forthwith.

Yes, children can be saved, and they are saved when they become believers in Christ, but church people sin greatly against children. Multitudes are taken in

with no knowledge whatsoever of salvation. How often during revivals do churches put on a special Sunday school service during which pressure is put upon children to make profession of faith. I think of an instance in which a girl was teacher of a class, and she offered all members of her class a gift if they would go forward when the invitation was given. The whole gang of children went, and she was congratulated and lauded for her wonderful feat in winning her whole class to Christ. Christ! They didn't care anything about Christ! They were after the little gew gaw she offered them. Churches are loaded down with lost church members largely because children are rustled into the church through all sorts of stunts and propositions in connection with revivals and special days in Sunday schools. Children can be saved if they are taught the way of salvation, but great care should be exercised in dealing with children. I know, for I have baptized a host of people along in years who were rustled into the church unsaved as children.

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It always grieves me to hear of someone who thinks this way. I am in complete disagreement with your father in this respect. The Bible is too full of Scriptures that indicate they can be saved.

David admonished the children to listen to him:

"Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord." (Ps. 34:11).

Asaph speaks of it in Psalm 78:5-8:

"For He hath established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: that the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: THAT THEY MIGHT SET THEIR HOPE IN GOD, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments: and might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God."

They are admonished to praise God:

"Both young men, and maidens; old men, AND CHILDREN: LET THEM PRAISE THE NAME OF THE LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is

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above the earth and heaven." (Ps. 148:12,13).

Ecclesiastes (the preacher) admonishes children to trust Him: "Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." (Ecc. 12:1).

Isaiah tells us that:

"... all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children." (Isa. 54:1).

Now, my friends, after reading the above Scripture, don't try to tell me that children are not to be taught the things of the Lord. They couldn't praise God, fear God, or have hope in God if they were not saved. Paul teaches children to obey parents in the Lord. How can they if they are not saved?

I say to your father and to all who feel as he does, listen to the warning that Jesus gave:

"But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 19:14).

So a child can't repent! My friend, I have news for you, neither can a man or a woman.

"When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life." (Acts 11:18).

Jesus let it be known that none can come to Him except he is drawn.

"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).

If God draws a 79-year-old man or a 6-year-old child, who are you to say He can't? Instead of questioning the great work of God in salvation, let us rejoice along with the rejoicing in heaven.

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." (Luke 15:10).

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PAGE FOUR



# ADAM'S RIB

WRITTEN BY A WOMAN  
AND FOR WOMEN

## "SAPPHIRA"

Sapphira was a member of the Baptist church in Jerusalem. She was a woman who tried to "keep up with the Jones," spiritually speaking. To get the proper background we have to go back to the 4th chapter of Acts. There we see Barnabas, rich in faith, selling all that he has and giving it to the church. The Lord had called him to preach and as he would be traveling, would have no need of real estate. There were others also, who sold all their possessions and gave it to the church. Although there was no law that said they had to do this, the majority in the church did so. (4:32) This, no doubt, put silent pressure on Sapphira and her husband — not intentionally, but it was there none the less. Sometimes it is so in our churches today. I knew of a church where the members thought it wrong to observe Christmas. There was one couple who did not have these convictions and although the church did not have set rules concerning this, the silent pressure was there. The couple not being strong enough to stand or speak their own mind, pretended to go along with the group. Soon they were hiding, compromising and lying.

This is what we see Sapphira and her husband doing. They sold their possessions just like everyone else, BUT they held back part of it. This in itself was not wrong. The sin comes later as Ananias brings part of it to the Apostle Peter and announces that he and his wife are giving all.

Sapphira and her husband must have forgotten that some in the early church had the gift of discernment (I Cor. 12:10). Peter demonstrates this gift here. He immediately discerns that a fraud is being committed, that Satan is behind it, and announces that Ananias had lied to the Holy Spirit. The judgment of God was swift and Ananias dropped dead on the spot. It is interesting that they take him out and bury him without notifying his wife and family. We need to be careful how we answer the next time we are asked to give time, talents, or tithes to the church, lest our excuses be found to be lies.

About three hours later, Sapphira came to the church. She is unaware that her husband is

dead. Perhaps she is even looking for him. She inquires of Peter and Peter answers and says, "Tell me if you sold the land for so much," no doubt, naming the amount that her husband had brought to the church. And she said, "Yes, that is the right amount." (Acts 5:8). Then Peter asked why she and her husband have agreed to tempt the Spirit of the Lord. He informs her that the same men who buried her husband would carry her out to be buried also. Before Sapphira could mourn for her dead husband, she too, falls dead. They bury her beside her husband. Again, there is no notifying of family or friends, no burial preparations, no ceremony. They buried her.

This is a shocking story, but it is not the first time God had acted thusly. Remember when the Tabernacle was instituted and Moses consecrated Aaron and his two sons to be priests? Soon thereafter, the sons offer strange fire on the altar and God destroyed them on the spot. (Lev. 10:1,2). Also when Joshua began to conquer Canaan, Achan took the "accursed thing" contrary to the commandment of God. He was stoned immediately. Now as the church is beginning, we see God once again meting out swift judgment. It's as if God's people need shocking examples to teach them the way of the Lord.

Oh, that we might learn from Sapphira. Let us not pretend to have faith if we don't. It would be better to be known as a Christian weak in faith, than to be found lying to the Holy Spirit.

In the church, the Holy Spirit gives the measure of faith as it pleases Him. (I Cor. 12:9). It is not wrong to desire more faith. But we do not get it by lying or trying to live according to the faith of another. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. (Rom. 10:17). It takes hard work to study the Word. It can't be done hap-hazardly or in a hurry. May it please the Spirit to give us the measure of faith to be faithful in the study of His Word!

## Fred T. Halliman

(Continued from Page One)

fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire; there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears, let him hear."

Jesus said on another occasion: "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." And again, "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not." (John 1:11). Even so now, as then, the Lord Jesus Christ is being rejected by the vast majority, and our Lord says in no uncertain terms that this age is going to fall. This judgment-ending of the age is that mentioned in Daniel 9:27: "And he (the Antichrist) shall confirm the covenant with many for one week (seven years): and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the over-spreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation."

### The End Heralded By The Prophets

All past ages have ended, so will this present one. All past ages have ended in man's failure and God's judgment; so will this present one. Having learned from the "sure word of prophecy" that this age will end, and how it will end, we now ask, "Can we know when this age-ending is about to take place? Do we have a right to seek an answer to this question?"

Our Lord severely rebuked the Scribes and Pharisees for not having discerned the signs of the times which heralded His first Advent:

"The Pharisees also with the

Sadducees came, and tempting desired Him that He would show them a sign from heaven. He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, it will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, it will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky, but can ye not discern the signs of the times?" (Matt. 16:1-3).

And are we to invite this same rebuke by closing our eyes to the multiplied signs of His imminent return? A wicked world has been told that the Day of the Lord will overtake it as a thief in the night entirely unexpected: "But we, brethren, are not in darkness that that day should overtake us as a thief." (I Thess. 5:4).

I have little time for date-setters, and we are warned against such in God's Word: "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only" (Matt 24:36) — but from the same Lord and in the same chapter, verse 33, comes the command to know by certain foretold signs that His return is near. "When ye shall see all these things, know it is near, even at the doors."

And now we return to our first question: "How can we know that a Brighter Day is Dawning?"

This message was preached in a Bible Conference at Little Rock, Arkansas a good while before Bro. Halliman went to New Guinea.

It was a real and blessed experience to hear this message, and we rejoice to share it with our readers today.

Jeremiah 6:4 says: "... the shadows before." When we see the evening shadows begin to fall we know that night and darkness is fast approaching. I am reminded of my boyhood days when I lived and worked on the farm, and before I knew what it was to assume any responsibility. There was always two things that I liked to see: a rainy day and the late afternoon. A little while before sundown, when "the shadows of the evening were stretched out," I knew it was not long before time to quit for the day. That was something that I looked forward to; and now that I have passed the "noon hour" in this life, I find myself enjoying, and looking forward to the evening shadows of life as they are being stretched out. The dawning of a brighter day will soon be on the horizon.

The Bible tells us that the end of this age, and just before the dawning of a bright day, this world will have a day of unspeakable darkness, and gloominess, full of evil men and the fury of a Holy God. Let us read:

"Woe unto you that desire (challenge) the day of the Lord! to what end is it for you? the Day of the Lord is darkness, and not light. As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him. Shall not the day of the Lord be DARKNESS, and not light? even VERY DARK, and no brightness in it." (Amos 5:18-20).

"The great day of the Lord is near, it is near and hasteth greatly; that day is a day of WRATH, a day of TROUBLE and DISTRESS, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of DARKNESS and GLOOMINESS, a day of clouds and THICK DARKNESS." (Zeph. 1:14-15).

In order that we might better understand these prophetic signs that are transpiring before our very eyes, let us liken the con-

summation of the age unto a great drama about to be enacted.

## I. THE SETTING OF THE STAGE.

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that do good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof; from such turn away." (II Tim. 3:1-5).

1. We are living in a sin-laden, materialistic, proud world. Pride caused the fall of Lucifer, so that he became Satan and brought sin into this world. He is the "god of this age," the father of ALL out of Christ, and his children are increasingly manifesting their family trait.

2. It is a worldly-wise, self-satisfied, and selfish world. Every man seeketh his own, or as we would say in modern slang, "Every man looks out for number one." As the end of the age draws near, man becomes increasingly wise, but only in the wisdom of the world, and that is in God's sight as foolishness because "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Beloved, that fear is notably absent among the wise of this world.

3. I is a deceitful, deluded and cynical world. One only needs to read Isaiah 5:19—"Let Him make speed, and hasten His work that we may see it; and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw nigh and come, that we may know it." or II Peter 3:4—"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lust, and saying, Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation," — and then look round about them and see and hear the constant denials of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, to see these very prophecies being fulfilled before our eyes.

4. It is a cruel, lawless, and hypocritical world. Practically everything today has some kind of substitute and in some cases the substitute looks more genuine than the real thing. Religion is

most religious person in the world. He is so religious, he has almost 1900 different sects, cults, isms, and in many cases each one of these different sects, cults and isms has thousands of congregations that the Devil calls churches, all of which is a sure sign of "the dawning of a brighter day."

## II. THE ASSEMBLING OF THE CAST.

"Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about." — Joel 3:11.

In this great drama that is transpiring before our eyes, as the cast is being assembled for their respective parts, we find many notable characters, of which we shall call attention to a few.

1. The Antichrist. There are many antichrists, in fact, there are as many antichrists as there are opposers to the one and only true Christ. But all of these, even the most wicked of them, are only faint shadows of the Antichrist. Upon the breaking of the first seal of Revelation 6, as the end-time drama begins, a rider comes forth on a white horse "conquering and to conquer." It is this character that we refer to as the Antichrist. He is powerful, but not all powerful, and will, like all those that oppose God, meet his doom.

2. The Revived Roman Empire. Many people are living in constant fear that one day Russia will rule the world. And some predict that the United States will be a world ruler. They should stop worrying and start reading the Lord's Word. Nowhere in the Bible does it say, or even so much as hint, that Russia, or any other nation, that has not already been a world ruler, will rule the world. They are Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, and Rome. Also a study of Daniel 7 will reveal that at the near-end of this age, Rome, in a revived form (and I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed—Rev. 13:3) of a ten-nation federation, will hold world-sway again.

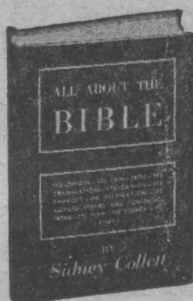
3. The Budding of the Fig Tree, or Israel's regathering to the Promised Land. Most Bible scholars are agreed that the parable of the fig tree (Matt. 24:32) refers to the regathering of Israel to the land of Palestine. No one needs to be told that the Jews are migrating back to their homeland by the thousands every year, and so Matt. 24:33 reads: "So likewise ye, when we shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors." God says to a dispersed Israel: "Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north, Give up: and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth." Isa. 43:5-6. Truly we can know, when we see these prophecies being fulfilled daily, that the dawning of a brighter day is already on the horizon.

4. The Counterfeit Church. As we have already mentioned, as the end of this age draws near, people will become more and more religious (even though most of their religion will be a counterfeit religion). Satan's most successful efforts to keep men from God have ever been those of imitation, half-truths, and counter-

(Continued on page 7, column 1)

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not excepted. There is more "veneer religion" today than ever before, profession but no possession; beautiful sepulchers, white on the outside, but full of dead men's bones; honoring God with the lips, but their hearts are far from Him; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof—and, beloved, we may expect more and more of this sort of thing the nearer we come to the consummation of this age. One of the counterfeits of the devil is to deceive people into being "religious" and making them think that is Christianity. There is a vast difference in "religion" and "Christianity." In fact, the Devil is the



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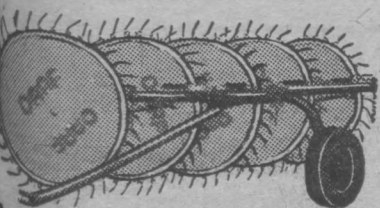
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PAGE FIVE

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# DEPRAVITY

By JOHN GILL  
(Born 1697, Died 1771)

"The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it?"—Jeremiah 17:9.

This is the source of the idolatry and creature-confidence of the Jews, sins which were the cause of their ruin; and though what is here said is particularly applicable to their hearts, yet is in general true of the heart of every man; which is deceitful, and deceiving; and puts a cheat upon the man himself whose it is.

It deceives him with respect to sin; it proposes it to him under the notion of pleasure; it promises him a great deal in it, but does not yield a real pleasure to him; it is all fancy and imagination; a mere illusion and a dream; and what it gives is very short-lived; it is but for a season, and ends in bitterness and death.

Or it proposes it under the notion of profit; it promises him riches, by such and such sinful ways it suggests; but, when he has got them, he is the loser by them; these deceitful riches choke the Word, cause him to err from the faith, pierce him through with many sorrows, and endanger the loss of his soul.

It promises honour and preferment in the world, but promotes him to shame; it promises him liberty, but brings him into bondage; it promises him impunity, peace, and security, when sudden destruction comes.

It deceives him in point of knowledge; it persuades him that he is a very knowing person, when he is blind and ignorant, and knows nothing as he ought to know; and only deceives himself; for there is no true knowledge but of God in Christ, and of a crucified Christ, and salvation by Him. (See I Corinthians 3:18 and 8:1, 2; Galatians 6:3).

It deceives in the business of religion; it makes a man believe that he is a very holy and righteous man, and in a fair way for Heaven, when he is far from that, and the character it gives him; in order to this, it suggests to him that concupiscence or lust, or the inward workings of the mind, are not sin; and it is only on this principle that it can be accounted for, that Saul, before conversion, or any other man, should be led into such a mistake, as to conclude that, touching the

righteousness of the law, he was blameless.

It represents either sins as more peccadilloes, as little sins, and not to be regarded; and even puts the name of virtue on vices; profuseness and prodigality it calls liberality, and doing public good; and covetousness has the name of frugality and good economy.

It directs men to compare themselves and their outward conversation with others, that are very profane and dissolute; and from thence to form a good character of themselves, as better than others; and as it buoys up with the purity of human nature, so with the power of man's free will to do that which is good, and particularly to repent at pleasure; and it puts the profane sinner upon trusting to the absolute mercy of God, and hides from him His justice and holiness; and it puts others upon depending upon the outward acts of religion, or upon speculative notions, to the neglect of real godliness (see James 1:22, 26).

The man of a deceitful heart, the hypocrite, tries to deceive God himself, but he cannot; he oftentimes deceives men, and always himself; so does the profane sinner, the self-righteous man, and the false teacher; who attempts to deceive the very elect, but cannot; yea, a good man may be deceived by his own heart, of which Peter is a sad instance. (Matthew 26:33, 35, 70, 72, 74).

The heart is deceitful, to a very great degree, it is superlatively so; above all, above all creatures; the serpent and the fox are noted for their subtlety, and wicked men are compared to them for it; but these comparisons fall short of expressing the wicked subtlety and deceit in men's hearts; yea, it is more deceitful to a man than the Devil, the great deceiver himself; because it is nearer to a man, and can come at him, and work upon him, when Satan cannot; or about, or concerning all things; it is so in every thing in which it is concerned, natural, civil, or religious, and especially the latter.

The Septuagint version renders it deep; it is an abyss, a bottomless one; there is no fathoming of it; the depths of sin are in it. (See Psalm 64:6). And, seeing it is so deceitful, it should not be trusted in; a man should neither trust in his own heart, nor in another's (Proverbs 28:26 and 25:

19).

And desperately wicked; everything in it is wicked; the thoughts of it are evil; the imaginations of the thoughts are so; even every imagination, and that only, and always (Genesis 6:5). The affections are inordinate; the mind and conscience are defiled; the understanding darkened, so dark as to call evil good, and good evil; and the will obstinate and perverse. All manner of sin and wickedness is in it; it is the cage of every unclean bird, and the hold of every foul spirit; all sin is forged and framed in it; and all manner of evil comes out of it (Rev. 18:1, Matt. 15:19). Yea, it is wickedness itself (Psalm 5:9).

It is so even to desperation; it is incurably wicked, as it may be rendered; it is so without the grace of God, and blood of Christ;

can see Modernism coming in to ruin us as it has ruined Northern Baptists. Churches and pastors can get so in the clutches of a denominational system, that they dare not protest against Modernism, where leading men and institutions are concerned.

## The Real Test

Pastors and churches should be evaluated in accordance with their truthness to Christ and His Word and their usefulness to Him in the promoting of His Cause in the world. Instead of this, a man or a church can have the evident blessing of God, can be doing a mighty work for the Lord, but if they deviate to any degree from the Program devised by the leaders of the denomination, they are often attacked and effort is made to injure them. Two recent illustrations come to mind.

## The Case Of Lee Roberson

The outstanding pastor and church of all the Southern Baptist Convention, is easily Lee Roberson and the Highland Park Baptist Church of Chattanooga. The church has within a few years grown to a membership of more than twelve thousand. It leads the Convention in the number of souls won to Christ. It runs a college and seminary as large as some denominational schools. It fosters the largest mission work that we have ever known any one church to foster. The pastor is a man of untiring devotion — a humble yet powerful preacher, with never a false ring to his ministry. Surely pastor and church (Continued on page 8, column 3)

relationships, on eternal purposes, and sure fulfillments.

By nature no man will come to Christ. The text says, "Ye will not come unto me, that ye might have life." I assert, on Scripture authority, from my text, that ye will not come unto Christ, that ye might have life.

I tell you, I might preach to you for ever, I might borrow the eloquence of Demosthenes, or of Cicero, but ye will not come unto Christ. I might beg of you on my knees, with tears in my eyes, and show you the horrors of Hell and the joys of Heaven, the sufficiency of Christ, and your own lost condition, but none of you would come unto Christ of your-

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selves unless the Spirit that rested on Christ should draw you. It is true of all men in their natural condition that they will not come unto Christ.

But, methinks I hear another of these babblers, asking a question: "But could they not come if they liked?" My friend, I will reply to thee another time. That is not the question this morning. I am talking about whether they will, not whether they can. You will notice whenever you talk about free will, the poor Arminian, in two seconds, begins to talk about power, and he mixes up two subjects that should be kept apart. We will not take two subjects at once; we decline fighting two at the same time, if you please. Another day we will preach from this text: "No man can come except the Father draw him." But it is only the will we are talking of now; and it is certain that men will not come unto Christ, that they might have life.

We might prove this from many texts of Scripture, but we will take one parable. You remember the parable where a certain king had a feast for his son, and bade a great number to come; the oxen and fatlings were killed, and he sent his messengers bidding many to the supper. Did they go to the feast? Ah, no; but they all, with one accord, began to make excuse. One said he had married a wife, and therefore he could not come, whereas he might have brought her with him. Another had bought a yoke of oxen, and went to prove them; but the feast was in the night-time, and he could not prove his oxen in the dark. Another had bought a piece of land, and wanted to see it; but I should not think he went to see it with a lantern. So they all made excuses and would not come. Well, the king was determined to have the feast; so he said, "Go into the highways and hedges, and invite them — stop! not invite — compel them to come in;" for even the ragged fellows in the hedges would never have come unless they were compelled.

(From "Free-Will—A Slave," a sermon by C. H. Spurgeon.)

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who can know it? Angels do not, Satan cannot; only the spirit of man can know the things of a man within him; though the natural man does not know the plague of his own heart; the Pharisee and perfectionist do not, or they would not say they were without sin; such rant arises from the ignorance of their own hearts; only a spiritual man knows his own heart, the plague of it, the deceitfulness and wickedness in it; and he does not know it all; God only knows it fully. (See I Cor. 2:11, I Kings 8:38, Psalm 19:12).

## Independent Baptists

(Continued from page one, to historic Baptist convictions, and the ministry of my church has done the same. We are not interdenominationalists — we are Baptists. But we have not felt that the church should be a sort of "chain store unit" of the denomination. We have felt free to give to the denominational causes that we believe in and to withhold gifts from any that we do not believe in. Our church is organized much more simply than the average, and we use the Bible as our sole text book in Sunday school.

When we made some changes in the interest of work, this was immediately met with hostility on the part of some pastors, and some even went so far as to go to the radio station and attempt to put us off the air — not because I was doing objectionable preaching, but because I was becoming "off color" in using the Bible instead of "literature," and because we didn't have all of the "auxiliaries." They didn't succeed, and every pastor involved has long since died or moved away. But down through the years we have been the victims of all sorts of false propaganda due solely to the fact that we run our work a bit differently, and do not send all our funds undesignated to the Cooperative Program.

The Lord has so blessed our work that we haven't felt too badly about personal misrepresentation. The thing that disturbs me is the growing ecclesiasticism among Southern Baptists, coupled with a spirit of intolerance. It grieves me as few things, for I

## Chosen In Him?

(Continued from page one)

crowns in Heaven for all his congregation; and then he wound up in a most solemn manner: "My dear friends, there are many for whom these things are prepared who will not get there." In fact, he made such a pitiful tale, as indeed he might do; but I tell you whom he ought to have wept for — he ought to have wept for the angels of heaven and all the saints, because that would spoil Heaven thoroughly. Think of the angels saying: "Ah! this is a beautiful Heaven, but we don't like to see all those crowns up there with cobwebs on; we cannot endure that uninhabited street: we cannot behold yon empty thrones." And then, poor souls, they might begin talking to one another, and say, "We are none of us safe here, for the promise was — 'I give unto my sheep eternal life,' and there is a lot of them in Hell that God gave eternal life to; there is a number that Christ shed His blood for burning in the pit, and if they may be sent there, so may we. If we cannot trust one promise, we cannot another."

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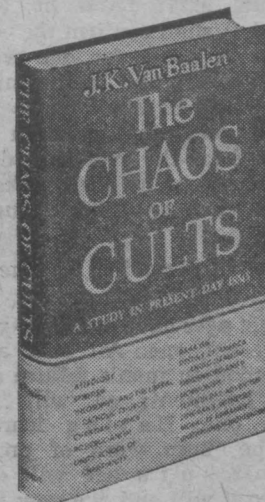
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## Fred T. Halliman

(Continued from page 5)

feits. And as the end of this age approaches we see him exercising all his diabolical cunning and craftiness as he prepares his masterpiece for their coming rolls: a Counterfeit Christ, Counterfeit World Empire, Counterfeit Israel, and a Counterfeit Church.

Some of these characters have already begun to file down the corridors of time, some we believe will soon follow, while some, no doubt, are already assembled on the stage. We believe it will not be long until the entire cast will be assembled, and then we will hear:

### III. THE SOUNDING OF THE PRELUDE.

"Sound an alarm for the day of the Lord is at hand."—Joel 2:1.

1. We hear the Midnight Cry—"And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh." (Matt. 25:6).

This wicked age becomes more and more enfolded in the deepening hues of its midnight gloom of evil, sin and fear. But that is why the cry is heard: "Behold The Bridegroom Cometh," for then the darkness must flee away because He is the "light of the world." Therefore, His Bride, is being awakened to be ready to

meet Her Beloved, and as the shadows of midnight deepen, the cry rings out more intensely. O, beloved brethren, can you not see the need as never before to "sound an alarm" from every Baptist pulpit, because "the stage is set," and "the cast is assembled," surely "the day of the Lord" will soon be at hand?

Lost sinner friend, the alarm is being sounded for you to repent of your sins and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour, for one day "Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power."—(II Thess. 1:7-9).

When the midnight cry is made and has been reverberated to the end of the earth, and then, as the sound of the alarm begins to fade into the ether, there in the blackness of pre-dawn hours appears:

2. The Morning Star. "I Jesus have sent mine angel (preacher) to testify unto you these things in the churches: I am the root and offspring of David, and the Bright and Morning Star." (Rev. 22:16).

As the morning star suddenly appears in the pre-dawn hours while all is quiet and still, even so, beloved, will Jesus, one day, while the world is yet asleep, come for His Bride and all the saved. Therefore, brethren, being called of God and sent by Jesus to "testify of these things in the churches," let us be "Redeeming the time, for the days are evil." Eph. 5:16.

God's people, and especially Baptist preachers, should not withhold this message from a deceived, deluded, damned, and condemned world. Let "... the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing" (Ps. 2:1) if they will, but, beloved, we "... have ... a more sure way of prophecy: whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts." We should proclaim this message without reservation—"For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch." (Mal. 4:1).

First we hear the Midnight Cry, then we see the Morning Star, then comes the darkest hour of the night, the hour just before dawn, which, in this case represents "great tribulation," or the time of "Jacob's trouble."

"But unto you that fear My name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings." (Mal. 4:21).

Beloved, as I look upon the horizon of time, and study "the sure word of prophecy," with each fleeting day, I am convinced more and more that we are upon the threshold, "even at the door" of the dawning of a brighter day.

With each new day I expect to see the "Day Star" arise (the second coming of Jesus) to take us out of this world before the dark hour of tribulation begins. I am patiently waiting, and longing for that day.

"Be ye also patient: stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." (James 5:8).

"Therefore be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."—(Matt. 24:44).

Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

## Snake ... Bottle

(Continued from page one)

Excessive drinking is the cause of many problems in America. Industry loses seven billion dollars due to this evil annually. Every major city spends one million or more each year to take care of its drunks. Alcoholism is responsible in part for our jammed jails, clogged courts, and over-worked police forces. In a recent report to the U. S. Congress, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse estimated that we spend fifteen billion dollars to take care of the drunks in this country.

Alcoholism contributes to the rise in crime in our country. The Methodist Board of Temperance relates: "More than sixty per cent of all arrests made by police in the first six months of 1956 were due to crimes directly related to alcoholic beverages." Of 2,945,216 arrests for all offenses made by police in 1,771 cities, 1,273,999 were for drunkenness, 325,935 for disorderly conduct, 137,098 for driving while intoxicated, and 50,195 for violations of state and federal liquor laws. The total of 1,786,547 liquor related arrests amounted to almost 10,000 a day. Former Director J. Edgar Hoover of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in his 1958 annual report, said: "Fifty-two per cent of all major crimes in our nation involve drunkenness." To call ethyl alcohol a snake in a bottle is to give it a very mild term.

Alcohol is the largest single factor leading to highway accidents and fatalities. Survey reports that the drinking driver is responsible for the slaughter of over 25,000 people and 800,000 crashes in the U. S. every year. One out of every 550 cars coming at you on the highway is being driven by a person on alcohol or narcotics.

Centuries ago the Prophet Amos wrote: "Woe to them ... That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments: but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph" (Amos 6:1, 6).

### ALCOHOLISM A WORLD-WIDE MALADY

Alcoholism is not just a problem in America. Its tentacles spread into virtually every nation on earth making it a world-wide tragedy. According to Mexico's Alcoholics Anonymous one out of every five Mexicans is an alcoholic. This means that there are nine million alcoholics out of the fifty million population.

In France there are about four million alcoholics. It is said that 355,000 Frenchmen lose their lives annually because of the consumption of alcoholism. Recent statistics reveal the average French adult consumes 29.5 quarts of alcohol each year. The liquor problem costs the French government 7 million francs annually.

Drunkenness is a major problem in Russia. It is believed there are 10 million drunks in the Soviet Union. Alcoholism is a factor in 65 per cent of all murders, 71 per cent of all bodily harm, 40 per cent of all absentees, 90 per cent of all juvenile crimes, 84 per cent of all thefts and 54 per cent of all rapes.

Public drunkenness has reached

an alarming proportion in Britain. There are about half a million alcohol abusers in this country. The snake in a bottle cost the British 250 million pounds a year.

Canada has 300,000 alcoholics. Six per cent of all Australians are drunkards. There are 370,000 alcoholics in South Africa. In West Germany alcoholics number 600,000. Two million Spaniards are drunks. It is also a serious problem in other countries.

Alcoholism is a serious problem in all the world. There are 25 million drunkards scattered over the world in all nations. Three million others are pre-alcoholics. The Holy Bible says to this 25 million: "Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them! And the harp, and the viol, the tabret, and pipe, and wine, are in their feasts: but they regard not the work of the Lord, neither consider the operation of his hands." (Isa. 5:11-12).

### ALCOHOLISM AND HISTORY

The first one to use alcohol excessively in the Bible was Noah. I read from Genesis 9:20-21: "And Noah began to be a husband-man, and he planted a vineyard: And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent." Noah committed the sin of drunkenness. His evil deed exposed him to shame and contempt. It brought a curse to his descendants.

Then there is the record of Lot's alcoholism. I read from Genesis 19:30-36: "And Lot went up out of Zoar, and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him; for he feared to dwell in Zoar and he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters. And the firstborn said unto the younger, Our father is old, and there is not a man in the earth to come in unto us after the manner of all the earth: Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will preserve seed of our father. And they made their father drink wine that night: and the firstborn went in, and lay with her father; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose. And it came to pass on the morrow, that the firstborn said unto the younger Behold, I lay yesternight with my father: let us make him drink wine this night also: and the younger arose, and lay with him; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose. Thus were both the daughters of Lot with child by their father."

While drunk Lot committed incest. He did a deed which he would not have done had he been sober. Liquor knows no pride, shame or persons. After this account we read no more about Lot. Many a name, which otherwise might have been remembered with respect, is buried in contempt and oblivion because of excessive drinking.

In II Samuel 13:28-29 I read of

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Amnon's drinking: "Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous, and be valiant. And the servants of Absalom did unto Amnon as Absalom had commanded."

Amnon's blood was mixed with his wine. Absalom murdered Amnon when he was under the influence of alcohol. Here we see that drinking makes us lose sight of danger and fail to resist evil. It makes one unfit to go out of this world.

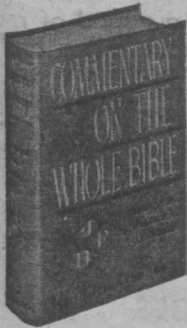
In I Kings 20:13-21 I see the king of Syria, Ben-hadad, and his confederates intoxicated. He gave the orders to take the young Israelites alive, but he was too drunk to see that his orders were carried out. The result of this was Syria's defeat and Ben-hadad's flight for his life.

Drunkenness has defeated many kings in battle. Alexander the Great died drunk at the age of 33. He who conquered the world could not conquer the sin of drunkenness. Many American (Continued on page 8, column 1)

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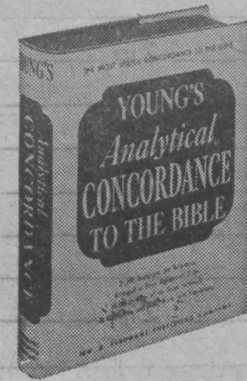
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## Snake . . . Bottle

(Continued from page seven)  
soldiers were drunk when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941.

In Daniel chapter 5 there is the record of Belshazzar's feast: "Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand, Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein. They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone."

In a state of intoxication he committed sacrilege. He used the vessels of God's house to engage in the drunken worship of his heathen deities. That which was sanctified in the worship of deity was used in the worship of demons. The sacrilege of this drunken king was fatal to his body and

soul. "In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain" (Dan 5:30).

Another drunkard was Nabal the Carmelite. I read from I Samuel 25:36-37: "And Abigail came to Nabal; and, behold, he held a feast in his house, like the feast of a king; and Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunken; wherefore she told him nothing, less or more, until the morning light. But it came to pass in the morning, when the wine was gone out of Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became as a stone."

A person who uses alcohol to the excess is incapable of sound instructions and approaching danger. When he sobers up, his reflection on his folly may be fatal. This is often the case today.

### ALCOHOL AND BUSINESS

Drinking is big business in our country. Seventy-five per cent of all Americans drink in some form. There are more alcoholics in the U. S. than there are people in the states of Mississippi and Alabama. Men in their late thirties who are

married, steadily employed, and attend church are the largest group of alcoholics in America. Fifty-nine percent of all protestants, 79 per cent of all Catholics, and 87 per cent of all Jews drink ethyl alcohol.

Someone will say, "People are going to drink. We need the tax money. So let them drink so we can get more taxes."

Must we raise taxes by selling a snake in the bottle? Must we accumulate taxes at the expense of letting people willfully commit suicide by drinking themselves to death? Would it not make more sense to raise taxes some other way, especially since most drunkards cannot afford to drink?

To legalize liquor for the sake of taxes is foolish. In 1959 in the state of Georgia it took \$23.61 of the taxpayer's money to collect each dollar of revenue from liquor, wine and beer. Georgians spent \$148,333,300 for whiskey, wine and beer as revealed in the sales tax division of the Revenue Commissioner. Estimated crime in Georgia due to liquor \$290,400,000. In the United States we receive around 4 billion in taxes, yet we spend 15 billion to take care of the drunks. Is it worth it for the taxes?

"But preacher, there is much money to be made by selling ethyl alcohol," says someone. I do not dispute this, but look at the harm the product does to your customers. The Bible says: "Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right" (Prov. 16:8). Habakkuk 2:12 declares: "Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and stablisheth a city by iniquity."

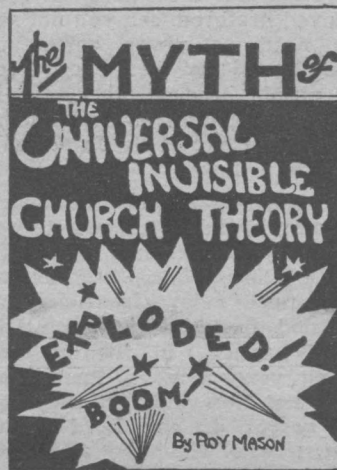
King David assisted Uriah in getting drunk. II Samuel 11:13 says: "And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk . . ." Those who give a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple shall be rewarded. But he who gives his neighbor ethyl alcohol commits abominable wickedness. He is an enemy to his neighbor and a destroyer of decency and order. (To be continued)

### Independent Baptists

(Continued from page 6)  
should have the love and admiration of all who love our Lord. I always think of this great man of God and his noble church with thanksgiving, while at the same time I am made to realize how little my church and I are doing in comparison. Therefore I was astonished when I saw a derogatory statement concerning Bro. Roberson, his church and Temple College, that had been drawn up by the Association with which the church is affiliated. This lengthy statement, meant to be damaging was avidly seized by the denominational press and published. Anything wrong with Lee Roberson as to preaching or character? No. Anything wrong with the church that baptizes more people than any other church in the Convention? No. Anything wrong with the College? Well, they did say that it was not "accredited!" Nothing wrong with church or pastor EXCEPT the fact that they make their own program and do not render complete obedience to a program handed down from "headquarters." Does God have any program of the denomination? We believe that He is in the great program of the Highland Park Baptist Church, and if so, it is a wicked thing to try to harm it. The drawing up of that derogatory statement and the spreading of it abroad in an attempt to harm a great church and school and preacher is the rankest intolerance.

I had planned to send my daughter to a denominational college but when Mrs. Mason visited the school and noted the worldly

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atmosphere of the place, I changed my mind and sent her to Temple College and I thank the Lord that I did, for the school is entirely satisfactory. The moral and spiritual life of my daughter is more important to me than a denominational label on an institution.

### The Case Of Charles Fuller

Another illustration of intolerance was a recent editorial in one of our Southern Baptist state papers. It was really an attack on another great man of God, Charles Fuller. Charles Fuller is a Southern Baptist, and he preaches to more people perhaps than any preacher on earth. God has blessed him and set His seal upon him. He has made Christ known to millions. Now along comes one of our state papers seeking to do his work harm, in the fear that some funds might find their way to him instead of into the denominational coffers. The voice of intolerance once more — and against a fellow Baptist. Why attack the pastor who baptizes more people than any pastor among Baptists? Why attack the evangelist who preaches the gospel of grace to more people than any man on earth? Instead we ought to be proud of both of them!

### Strange!

Now here comes the strange thing!

Right on the heels of this public condemnation in the denominational press of two men of undoubted devotion to Christ, there comes an announcement in the "Review And Expositor" of the

Spring Conference to be held at Southern Seminary, March the 8th through the 12th. One of the lecturers is to be Bro. Robert J. McCracken, pastor of Riverside Church in New York and SUCCESSOR TO THE NOTORIOUS HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK. Has the Baptist press had anything to say against that? If so, I haven't seen it.

I spent several years in Southern Seminary as a student and graduated from the school. I love the old school and it grieves me to know that they have invited the successor of one of the most dangerous infidels the nation has ever had, to lecture to the students. That speaks volumes concerning the theological position of those in leadership at the Seminary.

Think of the contrast! A great soul winning church and pastor are inveighed against, because they dare go beyond and outside the denominational program.

The Riverside Church contemptuously discards the name Baptist, casts aside the ordinance of baptism, goes for years under the leadership of a man who denied the virgin birth and blood atonement of our Lord. Then without changing their position, they call another man upon retirement of the infidel, and that successor is invited to come and lecture in our oldest Seminary!

### The Road To Ruin

The repudiation of men who are true to Christ and His Word, and the glorification of Modernists by Southern Baptists in leadership, is something I can't understand, but it is something I grieve to see, and it is something, which if not checked, will lead to the ruin of the largest body of evangelical Christians in the world. Already we are having various smaller groups of Baptists spring up. We have Association Baptists and Bible Baptists and Conservative Baptists and Fellowship Baptists, and other groups, while a growing number of Baptist churches are declaring themselves wholly independent. This schismatic condition, which is becoming worse, has grown out of the intolerance of which I have been speaking, coupled with friendliness toward Modernism and ecumenicalism.

If Southern Baptists are wise they will cease intolerance toward those who do not conform to every jot and tittle of man-made programs, and they will become less tolerant of those who deny the very Lord who bought us with His blood.

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