

An anxious person is not a trusting child of God.

MISSIONARY

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The Baptist Examiner

Baptist Is Our Middle Name

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"To the law and to the Testimony; if they speak not according to this word it is because there is no light in them."—Isaiah 8:20

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LETTER FROM NEW GUINEA

FRED T. HALLIMAN
New Guinea Missionary

Dear friends:

Greetings to each of you once again from Papua, New Guinea. This is my second letter from this side of the world since arriving here on November 1. Mail between here and America, even by the fastest standards, travels slowly these days. (I have received three letters from home since being back, one from my pastor and two from my family). These have cheered me up no end. I had several personal letters to answer before I left home and these were brought back to New Guinea to be answered.

After finishing up my itinerary, I only had six days left and I determined that I would do nothing those last six days except just be with my family. I believe that I have gotten caught up with all personal mail but in the event that someone got overlooked, please do not drop us from your list, but write to us again. It is so encouraging to us to have a personal note from our friends regardless of what corner of the globe you live in.

The Lord continues to bless us and His work here and for that we are most grateful. Even at this time I have visited only a few of the churches (have had reports from all but a couple), have seen all the preachers but six and the work, insofar as I can determine at this point, has held up marvelously well during my absence.

There are reports of some being saved while I was gone. This is an indication that the indigenous churches are well grounded in carrying out the commission which Christ gave to His church and which has been passed down to each true Baptist church ever since. Also the Lord's Supper was observed, by most of the churches, once while I was gone. There were no baptizings. There will be a separate article on this subject.

We plan to have a Missionary and Pastors Conference here on the Mission Station on December 4-5. We usually have three to four of these every year. These have proven to be most profitable, both for the preachers and the churches they pastor, or the mission fields they work in. Apart from a lot of preaching, we have sessions set aside for the purpose of ironing out any difficulties that may have arisen. Rather than have private discussions on matters like this we meet as a group and all can benefit from any problem that may have arisen. I am expecting about thirty-four, if all get to attend. Since this will be the first Conference in a little over six months, we expect to have quite a full program.

As the world crisis continues and the Day of our Lord's coming approaches with lightning speed, the effects of these things are being felt around the world by the Lord's people and especially by His missionaries. I correspond some with Elder Timothy Pietsch, a missionary in Japan for many years. Bro. Pietsch tells me that a large num-

ber of missionaries to Japan have left, and more are leaving, due to the devaluation of the American dollar and the excess in prices there. However, this brother says that he believes in a sovereign God that will supply his needs regard-



FRED T. HALLIMAN

less of the ever increasing trend in the change of money values and/or price rises.

We, too, have felt and continue to feel the results of the devaluation of the American dollar here in New Guinea. Now we only realize 66 cents out of each dollar that we receive and there seems to be an increase in the things we have to buy with each new purchase we make. However, this is not being written by way of complaint for we definitely believe that God is in full control of each and every situation, and that He will supply more finances to take up this slack to help us to carry on this ever-growing and expanding work, or else He will cause us to see how that we can continue to expand with less finances.

We do not see anywhere in the Lord's Word where there is a turning back nor even a standstill. Therefore, until the Lord comes, we expect this work to continue to progress under His leadership, either with or without what we might term as proper finances to do so. The Lord fed, clothed and housed the Israelites for forty years and we never read anywhere that He ever had to beg, borrow or make any loans in order to do so.

I serve the same God here in New Guinea that Moses and the Israelites did. Who is the same, yesterday, today and forever. And while the conditions are somewhat

different, He is no different. I came to New Guinea without a bank account, but under the greatest working conditions that any man could ever expect to get, and I have never regretted or tried to revise those conditions.

If I had come as a "free lance" missionary, I would have had to depend upon a few individuals and renegade groups that call themselves churches for my support. If I had come here under a mission board I would have had to depend on the salary set by that unscriptural "thing!!," and, they could have told me how long to stay, and when to come home, and perhaps even billed me for my return fare like they did one of my colleagues that I went to Bible school with. After all, if I had been sent out by a mission board I would have been working for them, and therefore subject to their jurisdiction.

While I condemn mission boards

"HALF A LOAF IS BETTER THAN NO LOAF AT ALL"

I hope you think that half of a paper is better than no paper at all. Due to the paper shortage, we have had an exceedingly hard time getting out the paper this week.

We are assured of plenty of paper after the first of February, but between now and then we will probably have quite a problem.

because they are ungodly, unscriptural, unauthorized by the Lord and usurping authority over the Lord's churches, I do not condemn them in the same sense that some do. Why not? Because I condemn the individuals that go out under them more. Let us use a little common sense and logic. If missionaries would depend on the Lord more and man less — if they would give glory to God in the church instead of boosting the ego of a group of men on a mission board — if they would follow the New Testament pattern of doing mission work instead of a sixteenth century invention by man — if they would just take God at His Word and depend

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The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor John R. Gilpin

"PERFECTED FOREVER"

"Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace"—Psa. 37:37.

"For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified"—Heb. 10:14.

I confess to you that there are a lot of people who do not understand what God has said about perfection. I'll be perfectly frank when I say that for a long, long time some verses in God's Word bothered me about this matter of perfection. Even today, I don't believe that there is anything in God's Word that is more misunderstood

than this word perfection.

Take for example this text I have read in Psalm 37:37. I don't know how many different interpretations I have heard relative to it. I want to give you one example to show you the spiritual ignorance that is abroad in the world. I remember the individual several years ago who told me that there had been one perfect man in this world besides Jesus. Naturally I asked who it was. She said that it was John Mark, and when I asked her how she ever arrived at the fact that John Mark was a perfect man, she

reminded me that the Bible said, "Mark the perfect man." She had in mind that it was talking about John Mark, whereas in reality it was merely exhorting the reader to observe man that is perfect. It is just a way of emphatically speaking, and it is not referring to any one particular person.

If I would take the time to do so, I might offer to you a number of other ignorant explanations relative to perfection. But passing hurriedly from these, may I say that it is my prayer to be able to say

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The Baptist Examiner FORUM

"Since we are predestinated to be saved, then why will the blood of the unsaved be on our hands? I ask this in the light of Ezekiel 3:18."

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This is a good question. Why preach to the non-elect when we know they won't be saved? And why will their blood be on our hands if we fail to preach to them?

It may be that a few references on the subject might help solve our problem. In I Chron. 16:15 we read, "Be ye mindful always of His covenant; the Word which He commanded to a thousand generations." In Psa. 119:4 the Psalmist says, "Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently." And in Isa. 13:3 we read these words, "I have commanded my sanctified ones."

Now what is it that our Lord has commanded concerning the question before us? In Mk. 16:15 He said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Here His command is clear that He wants us to preach to the non-elect as well as to the elect. And it is none of our business why He wants it done. He has commanded it, and that is all the reason we need for doing it. In I Kings 15:22 Samuel said to Saul, "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."

So then, to the extent that our Lord opens the doors, and enables

us, we must either proclaim the precious Word, or else answer to Him for our failure to do so. That is why Brother Gilpin and Calvary Baptist Church sends forth The Baptist Examiner into all fifty states and many foreign countries. That is why we here at Philadelphia Baptist Church send our Scripture Notes into forty states and sixteen foreign countries. That is why we mail out tracts far and wide, and send our Bible courses to anyone anywhere who desires to study with us. And that is why three truly great preachers, Bro. Milburn Cockrell, Bro. D. W. Morrow and Bro. Joe Wilson have labored many hours preparing courses to be taught along with those prepared by us here. All of us should have a burning desire to send forth the precious Word to a needy world.

ROY MASON

RADIO MINISTER
BAPTIST PREACHER
Aripeka, Florida



Since the question is asked in the light of Ezek. 3:18 let us consider this verse. It goes as follows: "When I say unto the wicked thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked

(Continued on page 3, column 5)

A Pert Resume Of Article In "Baptist Bible Tribune"

By JOE WILSON, SR.
Gladwin, Michigan

I have a good friend named Tom Sollosi in south Georgia.

When I first heard of Tom, he wrote me a letter in reference to an article I had written in TBE relative to Keith Shumate and his heresy at the Decatur Baptist Temple in Decatur, Illinois. At that time Mr. Sollosi belonged to, and was a full time youth worker in a B.B.F. church in Jacksonville, Florida. He was aware of Arminian heresy among this organization but he informed me that there were many "grace" believers in the B.B.F. My next letter, in a short while, from Tom informed me that he had left the B.B.F. church over the doctrines

of Grace.

It was my privilege before too long to meet Tom when I was preaching a week in the Rye Patch Baptist Church of Ludowici, Ga. God blessed our time of fellowship together. Mr. Sollosi then visited with that sound and able pastor in the deep South,



JOSEPH M. WILSON

David West, and with the Rye Patch Baptist Church a few times. God taught young Tom rapidly, and soon he was baptized into the Rye Patch Church. Tom is now pastor of a church in Georgia and is experiencing the blessings of the Lord upon his ministry.

Tom Sollosi sent me a page from the Baptist Bible Tribune of October 26, 1973. I assure you that as soon as I finish this article, this paper will be promptly deposited in my waste basket and soon carried to the garbage where it belongs. The

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JOHN R. GILPIN Editor

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"Perfected Forever"

(Continued from page one)
some things that will help you to see what the Word of God teaches as to perfection.

I

WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE FOR US.

My second text says, "He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified." If you are a saved person, you are already perfect so far as your nature is concerned. As God's child you have a perfect nature before God.

Now I do not say that you have a perfect human nature, and I do not say that you are perfect in this body that you live in — this body you carry about with you every day. If I would say that, I would be going contrary to the Word of God. Furthermore, I would be definitely going contrary to your own experience and your own observation. From the study of the Word of God, and from your own experience, and from your own observation of others, you know that no individual is perfect as far as his flesh is concerned. We read:

"NOT as though I had already attained, either were I ALREADY PERFECT: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I PRESS TOWARD THE MARK for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" — Phil. 3:12-14.

Notice, Paul is saying that he is pressing toward the mark. In other words, he is literally saying that he is not yet up to the mark, but he is pressing toward the mark because he is not already perfect.

Now, beloved, Paul had been a saved man for thirty years when he made that statement. If after thirty years experience with the Lord, Paul would say that he was not perfect, then that ought to indicate to us that no individual in this life is ever perfect so far as his fleshly nature is concerned.

No one knew the depravity of his fleshly nature more than the Apostle Paul. He did much that he knew was wrong. He even did that which he abhorred and hated. Likewise, the things that he desired to do he found himself unable to accomplish. He tells of his experience which is likewise your experience and mine in his letter to the church at Rome. In it he gives us a very definite picture as to the strife

which exists between the fleshly nature and the spiritual nature of each believer. Listen:

"For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh), dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me" — Rom. 8:15-21.

Notice again:

"Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, THAT YE MAY STAND PERFECT and complete in all the will of God" — Col. 4:12.

Paul was in prison and he was writing to the church of Colosse. He reminds these Colossian Christians of Epaphras who were residents originally of the city of Colosse. He tells them that Epaphras who is a servant of Christ, was laboring fervently in their behalf that these Christians might stand perfect. In other words, Epaphras was praying daily for his own people in Colosse that they might be perfect. He knew they weren't perfect. He wanted them to be perfect, and therefore he prayed for them that they might be made perfect in the will of God.

I say then, from these two verses that we have read, we can see that no individual is ever perfect so far as his fleshly nature is concerned. It is God's will that we be perfect. Listen:

"THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE PERFECT, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." — II Tim. 3:17.

It would be wonderful if you and I might be perfect as we live here within this world. I say to you frankly, I wish that I were perfect. I wish that I were even far more perfect than I am. I am sure that you as a child of God want to be perfect in the Lord, but you admit that you are not.

When the Lord Jesus Christ was here in the days of His flesh, in giving to us the sermon on the mount, He said:

"BE YE THEREFORE PERFECT, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." — Mt. 5:48.

You and I ought to make it the goal of our lives to be perfect — just as perfect as Almighty God. If you see two teams on a football field, and each of them is attempting to reach a particular goal, that in itself is a marvelous illustration so far as you and I are personally concerned. Our goal is the perfection of Almighty God, and you and I ought to be striving daily for that goal of perfection. We ought to seek day by day to try to be just as perfect as Almighty God. Yet I confess to you that I am not perfect, and I know by observation of you that you are not perfect. I know by the reading of the Word of God that no individual in this world was ever perfect except the Lord Jesus Christ. Of Him it could be said, and was said, by the Psalmist, "Thou art my God from my mother's belly." (Psalm 22:10). The only one that could ever say this was the Lord Jesus Christ. All the balance of us are sinful. We are depraved. We have sinful purposes and sinful principles that run counter-wise and contrary-wise to the will of God, to the extent that we are far from perfect here within this world.

While this is true of us from a fleshly standpoint, it is also true that spiritually you are already perfect in God's sight. As my text says, "For by one offering he hath

LATEST PHOTO OF EDITOR GILPIN

Of recent date while making a trip to Cleveland, Ohio, I stopped at the Marzetti Foods in Columbus, and the accompanying picture was made at that time.

Mr. Gansey Johnston who operates this company had a camera on hand and took a picture of me, which I appreciate very much.

I might add that Mr. Johnston has been most kind to us for many years in that he has furnished us



JOHN R. GILPIN

with many of his products, which have been especially appreciated by our guests and visitors at various conferences of Calvary Baptist Church.

It was truly a blessing to visit with Mr. Johnston, to have this picture made, and to receive at his hands a most liberal contribution of the food products of Marzetti Company.

Naturally I would certainly urge our readers when shopping that they watch for the Marzetti label for always outstanding quality. When you are thanking me for making this suggestion, I will be thanking you for your kindness in using Marzetti products.

perfected for ever them that are sanctified." I thank God that though I am not perfect in my body — though I am not perfect so far as my fleshly nature is concerned, I thank God that already I am spiritually perfect in the sight of God, because God has given to me a perfect nature.

Paul says that he is not up to the mark so far as his physical nature is concerned but so far as he is concerned spiritually, he is perfect. He says for us that are perfect spiritually to be pressing toward the mark that we might be subjected in our fleshly nature.

We read:

"Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man PERFECT IN CHRIST JESUS." — Col. 1:28.

In other words, you are not perfect in your fleshly nature, but you are perfect in Christ. You have a perfect nature because you have the nature of God. You have a perfect position because you are in Christ Jesus, so he refers to us as being perfect in Christ. I will say again, so far as our fleshly nature is concerned, we are far from perfect, but so far as our spiritual nature is concerned, we stand perfect in the sight of God.

I don't know whether this helps you or not, but this puts fire in this preacher's soul to know when God sees me, he doesn't see me as a filthy, debauched, depraved, sinning individual, but He sees me as though I am perfect already in the Lord Jesus Christ. What a blessing to the saved person to know when God sees you, He sees you perfect in His sight.

"We know that whosoever is born of God SINNETH NOT; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not." — I John 5:18.

This is talking about the new nature that God puts inside you. Beloved, you have a perfect nature if you are saved. You have God's nature to such an extent that when God sees you He sees you perfect in the Lord Jesus Christ.

How I thank God that that is true. I know that my old flesh is anything but perfect. I know that yours is in the same condition. I know from the study of God's Word that nobody who lives in this world, or ever shall live in this world, will be perfect as long as he is in the flesh. At the same time, though I have an imperfect body, I thank God that I have a perfect standing in Him, for my text says, "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified." Doesn't it make you happy to know that when God looks on you He sees you who are saved, perfect in Christ Jesus.

II

HE HAS PERFECTED US FOR HOW LONG?

How long is that perfection going to last that you are the possessor of? My text says, "He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."

Every once in a while we talk about the security of the saved — the fact that a man is secure in Christ Jesus. Some say that if a man is saved once he is saved forever, or as some people say, once in grace always in grace. I thank God that I can subscribe to that teaching. I thank God that the Bible teaches that when a man is saved, he is saved forever, and if we are once in grace we will always be in grace. The day that the Lord Jesus Christ saved us, He perfected us. He gave me a perfect nature and a perfect standing in His sight. I thank God today that nearly forty years later, I still have a perfect standing and a perfect spiritual nature. I thank God that what happened the day I was saved is still true today, and the reason for it is He perfected me forever. Beloved, when a man is saved once he is saved forever, and all Hell can't take him out of God's hands. Listen:

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will PERFECT it until the day of Jesus Christ." — Phil. 1:6.

The word "perform" is actually the word for "finish." Literally then, the verse declares that God will finish what He has begun in us through Jesus Christ.

This doesn't sound like a man being perfect today and imperfect tomorrow. This doesn't sound like a man being made perfect now and being imperfect a year from now. Beloved, when He saves us — He perfects us — He perfects us forever.

I insist that He didn't perfect your old nature. It is just as depraved and as devilish and as contrary to God as it was the day He saved you. The only difference is that you can control it a little better because you have the new nature on the inside. The new nature just acts as a bridle. You can control a horse with a bridle, and the new nature just helps to control that old imperfect nature that you have in your flesh.

We read:

"Waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall CONFIRM you unto the end." — I Cor. 1:8.

Notice, it says that He confirms us unto the end. I am glad that when the Lord Jesus Christ saves a man He doesn't save him just for a season, but He saves him for ever. (Continued on page 3, column 2)

Fred T. Halliman

(Continued from page one)

on His promises instead of relying on the ungodly, unscriptural, church-despising, authority-rejecting, glory-seeking, Satan-dominated and demon-possessed mission boards, it would probably take about ninety days for every mission board in the country to go out of business.

Don't misunderstand me, I am not picking on our brethren that have written against these ungodly organizations except that they just put it too mildly and were too easy on them. But if we trace the thing right down to the final analysis, who is to be blamed more, the group of men that form the mission boards or the preachers that patronize them?

Perhaps you are saying, the mission boards are to be blamed more, for if they did not exist missionaries would not go out under them. Again let us be realistic; when a preacher or any other person gets ready to dishonor God and the church which Jesus built, if he cannot find a mission board to do it through or cannot find one that suits him, he will go out and freelance, and dishonor God anyway, having no regard for God's Word or authority, and despising the church that our Lord commissioned to do His work. When I was lost, I sometimes patronized the taverns, but if I could not find one to my liking, I knew of some free-lancers that I could go to.

To my preacher brethren that are out under these unscriptural mission boards, let me assure you that I love you in the Lord, but I lay the blame for the existence of these ungodly organizations right where it belongs, and that is squarely on your shoulders. I believe we may have a little time yet, though perhaps very little, before our Lord comes back and what has been done cannot be undone, but one thing you can do now, you can cut loose from these unscriptural man-made organizations and repent of your sin of disobedience to Christ, and get authority from, and serve the Lord in, and through, a New Testament Church with nothing added or taken from.

It is for this reason that I can write as I do regarding my finances here in New Guinea to carry on this work. I don't have to depend on a mission board to supply my needs, allot my salary or give me any kind of orders. Having gone out under nothing but the authority of one of the Lord's churches, I can daily claim the promise that He made to the first Baptist church and all others that follow this plan of mission work that He "... will never leave nor forsake me." You cannot claim this promise as long as you refuse to play by the rules of the game.

While at home for a few months and visiting churches that support this work, I was asked a point-blank question by a pastor one day. Permit me to share with you the question and my answer. I was in the home of Elder Paul Tiber, pastor of the New Testament Baptist Church, Burton, Ohio, when he asked me this question, quote: "Bro. Halliman, I have noted that seemingly the Lord graciously keeps your needs supplied while at the same time I have noted other missionaries that apparently have a hard time making ends meet. What do you attribute this fact to?"

I had never had the above question asked me before, but almost by the time he had finished with the question I had the answer, insofar as I knew. My answer was: "I have determined that, by the grace of God, I would honor Him and Christ my Saviour, through the church that Jesus built, apart from any man-made organization and without compromising the truth of (Continued on page 4, column 5)

ADAM'S RIB

WRITTEN BY A WOMAN
AND FOR WOMEN

"THE AGED WOMEN"

"The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness" (Titus 2:3).

So often we hear older women say, "I've done my part — let the younger women take over." This reveals at least two things about the speaker.

(1) She considers serving the Lord a burden instead of a joy. No one gives up something he loves so casually. Too many of us are willing to "rust out" for the Lord rather than "burn out" for Him. Older women who are unable physically to do the things they once did can serve more faithfully than ever via prayer, counseling the younger women, Bible study and attendance to services. If there are some things we can't do — instead of bemoaning the fact — let us concentrate the more fervently on the things we can do.

(2) She is ignorant of the Word. Titus says the older women are to teach the younger women. (2:4). This is one place of service reserved for us until we are old. I personally believe this means old in the Lord, as well as old in years. A dear old saint that has walked with her Lord for many years has much to offer the young woman. She is to teach them to love their husbands — to love their children — instruct them in their Christian deportment, etc. (Titus 2:5). In order to do this, she must be well versed in the Scriptures. Anything that is taught must be according to the "law and the testament."

When an aged woman occupies her place in teaching the younger women, her behaviour is to be compatible to holiness. Holiness does not mean she is sinless, but as a Christian, she has been set apart for the service of the Lord Jesus.

"For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (I Cor. 6:20).

She shouldn't have to tell anyone she is a Christian. It will be evident by her chaste conversation.

"While they beheld your chaste conversation coupled with fear" (I Peter 3:2).

Her speech will be seasoned with grace. Instead of back-biting and being a busy-body, she will speak those words that will edify or build up other women in the faith. Vain talking and jesting are not ornaments of holiness.

"Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks" (Eph. 5:4).

The kind of behaviour that is suitable to holiness is that of love. The older women will radiate this love to others. Her love for the Lord will be evident by her love for others.

"Love suffereth long, and is kind: love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth." (I Cor. 13:4-6).

Old age does not exempt us from service. Only death does that. Old age, rather, increases our responsibility. Faithfulness is not how much we do but rather how well we do what we can. I think of dear Bro. Mason who in his eighties is still faithfully writing in The Baptist Examiner and writing letters of encouragement to others. His books are a source of help to many of the Lord's people. I have a friend who is 74. Unable to go out visiting, she picks out

people who are ill, or discouraged, and calls them on the phone. In this way she cheers them and reminds them that someone cares.

Ladies, your years of walking with the Lord can be of great value to the younger women. Don't be content to sit with folded hands. Use your experiences of trials, and failures, and triumphs, and joy to encourage the young women — that they may be better able to teach when they reach your age.

"Perfected Forever"

(Continued from page two) ever.

Notice again:

'And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no one is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.'—John 10:28,29.

This settles the fact that when a man is saved, he is saved forever. How long are we perfected? Forever. How long are we saved? Forever. How long are we confirmed? Forever. How long are we His sheep? Forever. How long are we saved? My text says, "He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."

It thrills my heart to know that my salvation is going to last and last and last, and that all Hell can't take me out of the hand of God. Sometimes this old flesh gets mighty weak, for our flesh is far from perfect. The more you learn about the Bible, and the more you learn about God, the more imperfect you are going to learn your flesh is. The closer you come to the Lord the more you are going to learn how imperfect your fleshly nature really is. I thank God that though my fleshly nature is not perfect I have a new nature that is perfect. Sometimes this old flesh gives me a battle. Sometimes this old flesh causes me lots of grief and trouble, yet I rejoice that I am perfected and saved forever.

In Lestershire, England, strikers were going through the streets throwing rocks through windows and battering down doors. A little boy playing downstairs on the floor heard the strikers on the outside. He ran to the foot of the ladder where his big brother was working upstairs on a pair of shoes and called, "Tom, Tom! Come down. The strikers are about to break down the door." That big brother came down and put his big burly back to the door and the little brother went on about his play, with the fullest of assurance that everything was all right as long as his brother had his back to the door.

Sometimes the flesh gets mighty strong. Sometimes the flesh causes lots of difficulty. It is then that I go to the foot of the ladder of prayer and I cry out as I look up into my Master's face: "Christ, make haste and come down." It is then that my elder Brother, the Lord Jesus Christ, puts His back to the door, and all Hell can't break that door down when the Lord Jesus Christ is there.

Thank God, if you are saved you are perfect in God's sight. While the old nature is not perfect, and has caused you lots of difficulty, thank God for this fact, He has perfected you forever.

III

WHOM HAS HE PERFECTED?

My text says, "He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified." The word sanctify means "to set apart." Who has He perfected forever? Them that are set apart. We usually refer to this, as election. When we talk about a man being sanctified by the Lord it is the

same as saying that the individual has been elected of God. It is the same thing as saying that God hath set him apart to himself. Who hath He perfected forever? Those that are sanctified. Those that are set apart. Those that are the sanctified ones. Those whom He has elected unto Himself from before the foundation of the world. It is this group that He has perfected forever.

We speak often about particular atonement. Sometimes we call it particular redemption. Here you have it. Did He die for everybody? If He did, they will all be saved. However, He did not die for everybody. But who did He die for? "He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified." The word sanctify has to do with election. He hath elected a group unto Himself, and every last one of that group is going to be saved.

"ALL that the Father giveth me SHALL COME TO ME; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."—John 6:37.

I thank God that everyone who was given to the Lord Jesus as a love gift by God the Father before the foundation of the world is going to come to the Lord Jesus Christ. I am not worried one particle about them being saved. They will be saved in God's appointed time. Everyone who is sanctified — every one that He set apart to Himself — everyone for whom the atonement was made is going to be perfected forever.

IV

HOW IS THIS GOING TO COME TO PASS?

What has He done for us? He has perfected us. How long has He perfected us? Forever. Who has He perfected? Those who are set apart. How has He perfected? "For by ONE OFFERING he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."

Stand with me at the Cross and see Him who was crucified. See Him as He is maltreated and mistreated by the crowd. Look at that body that was wounded. See the blood that pours from the forehead that was mangled with a crown of thorns. See the blood as it pours out of the side that was riven with a spear. See Him as He dies upon the Cross. Then come back to this Scripture and realize that that is the fulfillment of this verse, for it says, "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified." You will notice it does not say Christ had to die a second time, but "by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."

If you will go back in the Old Testament and study the Jewish system of religious worship you will find that day by day they brought their sacrifices unto the priest and the priest would offer those sacrifices in behalf of the people. The priest's work was never ended. He would offer a sacrifice for one man, a sacrifice for another, and a sacrifice for another, and he would keep that up day by day. It has been estimated that it required a quarter of a million lambs a year for the high priest to sacrifice for the people. I don't know exactly how many there were, but I know it was a continuous process over and over again. But one day the Lord Jesus Christ came to the cross and put an end to the sacrificial system of the Old Testament. One day the Son of God came to Calvary, and there died, and by one offering He perfected forever them that are sanctified.

If you will study carefully in the tabernacle worship of the Old Testament you will find that they had certain pieces of furniture but never a chair, nor a stool, nor a seat. They had their brazen altar where they offered the sacrifice. They had their golden altar of incense where the smoke of incense forever as-

cended up as a type of the prayers of the Lord Jesus Christ as our High Priest. They had the table of shewbread and they had the golden candlestick to tell us of Christ as the Light of the world. They had the Holy of Holies with the ark of the covenant inside which was typical of the presence of Almighty God. They had everything for worship except they had no chair, nor bench, nor stool for the priest to sit on. Why didn't they have a place for the priest to sit down? Why wasn't there some provision made for that old tired priest? I'll tell you why. His work was never done. He offered sacrifices all the time. But one day the Lord Jesus Christ came to Calvary and by one offering perfected forever them that are sanctified. The priest in the Old Testament could never sit down but Christ offered one sacrifice, finishing this sacrificial system once and for all, and sat down because His work was finished.

I thank God when I think of Calvary I am perfect in God's sight. Not my flesh, not my old nature, but I am perfect in the sight of God. I am perfect because I was one He chose before the foundation of the world. I was sanctified and set apart for that purpose. How did He make me perfect? At Calvary Christ made one offering for sin and by that offering He perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

There are those today who say that a man has to be baptized to be saved, and there are those who say that a man has to join the church to be saved. But, beloved, this text knows no theology like that. I thank God that the man on a desert island where there is no preacher to baptize, where there can be no Scriptural observance of the Lord's Supper — I thank God if that man sees the truth that Jesus Christ died for his sins, that man is perfected forever, apart from church membership, apart from baptism apart from the Lord's Supper, and apart from anything and everything but that one offering of the Son of God at Calvary.

The text doesn't say that a man is perfected by the Mass on Sunday. I passed along last night in front of a Catholic church and I noticed the sign concerning their Masses. There were three of them listed this morning. Now what is the Mass? It is the unbloody sacrifice of Christ which the Catholics go through. They will observe a Mass which means three times today they will sacrifice the Lord Jesus Christ. Beloved, I read the Word of God and it says, "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."

What men and women need today is to look away from the ordinances and from the preacher or the priest or the rabbi, and from all things pertaining to the church, and just look to that one offering of the Lord Jesus Christ where by one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified. I don't have to slip beside a little peep hole and whisper into the ears of another man on the other side of that hole in the wall and tell that human being about my sins. I don't have to confess into the ears of a man who has as many sins as I have or maybe more sins than I have. I thank God that yonder at Calvary Jesus Christ died on the Cross. When He died, by one offering He perfected forever them that are sanctified.

Listen, beloved, a Catholic priest is a man two thousand years behind time. The priesthood died when Jesus died. No priest was needed from that time on for the simple reason that Christ finished the priesthood. Christ ended the sacrificial system. "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."

How I thank and praise God, for at the Cross of Calvary, Christ died that all the elect of God might be made perfect. You are not perfect in the flesh and you never will be as long as you are in the flesh. But you have a spiritual nature that is just as perfect as the nature of God because it is God's nature. You are partaker of the nature of God. By one offering and just one, He perfected forever them that are sanctified. Is that your experience? Thank God if it is. How I rejoice and praise God today that it is my experience. It is yours too if you are saved, and if you are not saved, you can be saved by Christ Jesus. May God bless you!



The Forum

(Continued from page one)
way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I require at thy hand."

We need to take several things into consideration, as follows:

1. These words were spoken unto a prophet of Old Testament time—not to us.
2. They were spoken to a people in covenant relation with God.
3. They were not spoken concerning salvation as taught in the New Testament.
4. Salvation by grace through faith was unknown back there, for the Saviour had not come and died for the sins of people.

Many people, including preachers, do not seriously consider the context when dealing with the Bible. They pull a Scripture out of Old Testament setting and mix it up with New Testament Scriptures. Many things were written strictly to Israel and have application to Israel alone.

While the passage under consideration was given to a prophet of Israel and does not relate to salvation by grace through faith in Christ, there is a sense in which it has an important lesson for us today. It is this: As the prophet was held responsible in the proclaiming the message God had given him — the measure of warning so we are under obligation to make known the warning message of God concerning the fate of those who live and die in their sins. The Hardshell would say, "But if people are predestinated to be saved, they will be saved, regardless." My answer is, "That's none of my business. It is God's business both to predestinate and to save. His command to me is to preach the gospel, and it is my business to do it, for the 'MEANS' are ordained as well as the END."

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We have a responsibility toward God in respect to our message to the lost. "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." (II Corinthians 5:20). We are to preach this message to everybody. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in Judaea, and in Samaria." (Acts 1:8). (Continued on page 4, column 1)

The Forum

(Continued from page three)
maria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8).

Paul spoke much of this responsibility. "I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise." (Romans 1:14). He went on to show how he was not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God unto salvation. In writing to the church at Corinth, he makes it perfectly clear about preaching the gospel to the lost. Remember, this is the same one who teaches the doctrines of God's sovereign grace. "What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel. For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." (I Cor. 9:18-22).

The Lord Jesus told the church to make disciples of all nations in the commission to the church. Since we know that God will use the message to save His elect, we rejoice and go with renewed courage and hope.

Now let us examine the verse in question. "When I say unto the wicked, thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand."

I think the verse is very clear. Each sinner answers for his own sin, but we are responsible to see that the message is given to him. We must answer for every opportunity that we do not take to tell of our Saviour. We cannot do the saving, but we can do the warning. This we must do.

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To answer this question, it will be necessary to determine whose blood shall be required at our hands. I cannot believe that the Lord will require the blood (life) of the unsaved (unregenerate) at the hands of His saints. In fact, I know of no Scripture which I could use to justify this popular theory. The spiritual condition before God of the unregenerate is one of death. Read Rom. 5:12 and Eph. 2:1. Because he is totally depraved, he is therefore unable to hear or understand any warning that we may give, neither does he have the power to turn from his evil way. In fact, there is absolutely nothing he can do in the spiritual realm; he cannot come to God or heed any invitation from the Lord.

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because

they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14).

From this verse, we learn why it is that the natural man cannot perceive or receive teachings and exhortations of the Lord. To his natural ear, the things of God are but foolish things. He can understand the literal or fleshly things, but he is unable to discern the spiritual things. Therefore, any exhortation we may give to such a one is in vain. There is no hope within himself of ever understanding what the spirit is speaking about. Therefore, I do not believe that the blood (life — life is in the blood) of those who do not have spiritual life will be required at our hands or that we shall have to answer at the judgment for our failure to preach to those who cannot hear us.

It is the blood of the children of God which shall be required at our hands if we fail to warn them of the evil of their ways. In Ezek. 3:18, God is speaking to his prophet whom he had sent. The Lord did not send him to Egypt, Moab, or Philistia, rather he was sent as a prophet to the covenant people (Israel), who were commanded to walk before Him in righteousness. It was the responsibility of the

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prophets to lead God's children in the true way of worship and to warn them that the Lord shall correct their ungodly walk. In sending Ezekiel to Israel, the Lord stressed the importance of being faithful to the commission that he was sent to perform. If he were faithful, he would deliver himself or save his life from the chastening hand of him who sent him to Israel to teach them all the things which the Lord commanded. In failing to warn God's people of their error, the Lord would require their blood at Ezekiel's hands. The blood mentioned in Ezek. 3:18-19 does not refer to one losing his divine nature, rather it is in his life's works which he would be in danger of losing because of compromising. The Lord gave to His people the same instructions, but worded it a little differently.

"For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matt. 16:25-26).

In these verses, the Lord reasons with us by asking the question, "What is a man profited, if he gain the world, then lose his soul? The Lord was not referring to our trading with Him in order to secure spiritual life. As mentioned above, the sinner is in no position to barter with God. The Lord is referring to our life's works which we shall lose if we try to gain the whole world. By joining the world in their religious worship, we might gain the applause of men, but we would definitely lose our life's works or rewards at the judgment seat of Christ. The Apostle Paul testified that he was pure from blood of all men because he had not failed to declare the whole counsel of God. Acts 20:25-26.

Brethren, our determination should be that we may reap a full reward, and we should be free from the blood of all men because we have not failed to declare the whole counsel of God to them for we, like Ezekiel, are watchmen to the church of God not in civil, but a spiritual way, and as true pastors, we watch over the souls of them whom God has given us, "To feed his flock (Baptist church) which He has purchased with his own blood Acts 20:23. Thus, we fight the good light of faith.

Joseph Wilson

(Continued from page one)

page which Tom sent me contains a purported explanation of Romans Nine by (God is a failure) Noel Smith. Brother, when Noel Smith writes on the 9th chapter of Romans, it is like a 1st grader teaching College Math. You say, a 1st grader would know nothing about college math. Well, that is exactly how much Noel Smith knows about Romans nine. In all of my reading of those who oppose truth, I have only once read a more absurd and ignorant attempt. I would think Noel Smith is an educated man, but I know Arminians who have little education, and who work for a living, that can do a far better job trying to defend Arminian heresy than Smith does in this article. Well, worldly wiseman becomes as an idiot when endeavoring to overthrow the Truth of God.

I certainly hate to see the words "Baptist" and "Bible" at the top of a page that is filled with such un-Biblical and unbaptistic heresy as this one is. It is almost wicked to call a paper Baptist Bible Tribune, and then print such rubbish in it. I would that whoever, or whatever, is in charge of this paper would take this misleading name off, or print Bible or Baptist truth in their paper.

Mr. Smith begins by telling us that the emphasis in Romans 9 is "on the compassion and mercy of God. It is not on the power and justice of God." Either he has not read the chapter, or he cannot comprehend what he reads. The emphasis is about equally divided as to mercy and as to power in the chapter. However, the real emphasis is on the SOVEREIGNTY of God. The subject of the chapter is the sovereignty of God is the bestowal of His mercy and in the exercise of His power. That is exactly the emphasis of the chapter. Only Mr. Smith's blind hatred of the truth of sovereignty leads him to make such a statement as the above. The emphasis of the passage is in the words, "whom I will," "whom He will" in v. 15 and 18. The chapter is teaching that God acts according to His will in the bestowal of salvation and in the hardening of some.

Mr. Smith says that the emphasis in Rom. 9 is on "legalism and works" as against "grace and faith." Now there is some truth here, except that it is utterly wrong to say that this is the emphasis of the chapter. The chapter does teach us that God elects men to salvation on the basis of grace and not on the basis of works. But Mr. Smith teaches that God does not elect on the principle of grace, but on the foreseen work of faith furnished and performed by man. He is utterly wrong in putting the emphasis on legalism and grace, for the emphasis is on sovereignty.

Mr. Smith says, "God's hatred of Esau and His rejection of him was not God's hatred and rejection of the man per se . . ." Well, this just puts Mr. Smith against God again. God says that He hated Esau. I will take God's Word for it and leave Mr. Smith with his "per se." I would ask Mr. Smith if God loved Jacob "per se." I feel sure Mr. Smith would answer, "Yes." Well, however God loved Jacob, that is the way He hated Esau.

Mr. Smith says that the whole Bible will not permit us to say, "God is no respecter of persons — except Esau." Well, he is right about that. God is no respecter of persons, period. That is why when God elected, he did it unconditionally and without respect to anything in the person being elected. Mr. Smith then goes on to prove that his god is a respecter of persons, for he tells us that God's hatred of Esau was a hatred of his materialism, and that God's choice of Jacob was because of Jacob's faith. Now that is God showing respect of persons — that is God hating and electing because of what is in the person. But the Bible teaches, and sound Baptists believe

in unconditional election, which proves that God is no respecter of persons.

Mr. Smith says, "God is the Creator, God is the absolute sovereign. And if God chooses to exercise compassion and mercy instead of acting according to legalism, who is he to argue with God?" Now there is a hypocritical dodge — a lying pretence to believe what one does not believe — if I ever saw one. Surely, God is sovereign. He has mercy on whom He will, and whom He will He hardeneth, but Mr. Smith does not believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of His mercy or in the exercise of His power. Why pretend to believe that God is sovereign, Mr. Smith? Tell us again about Hell being a monument to the failure of the Triune God. We know you believe that, but we also know that you do not believe that God is sovereign. So why pretend that you do. Your whole article is written against the Sovereignty of God, and you hypocritically try to use the term to deliberately deceive people.

Mr. Smith says, "A lot of people have a lot of trouble with 'election' in this case of Esau and Jacob. They have it because they have never studied the verse." Well, Amen and Amen! That is what the article is all about. It is about Mr. Smith's trouble with election in the case of Esau and Jacob. The whole article in B.B.T. is about Mr. Smith's efforts to deny, get around and pervert the doctrine of the election of Jacob and the rejection of Esau. And Mr. Smith has this trouble because he does not believe the verse. I do not know how much studying he has done. I would say quite a bit. I would say that it takes lots and lots of studying to come up with the rubbish that he has in his perversion of God's Word. It would not take much study to see the truth of Romans 9:13. Men do not have trouble about the verse because they do not study it. One reading is all the studying that is needed to understand this verse. Mr. Smith's trouble and the trouble of his B.B.T. cohorts is that they just DO NOT believe the verse. Oh, no, brother! It does not take a lot of studying to see sovereign and unconditional election in the Bible. It just takes believing what God has said and not trying to make a liar or a failure out of Him. I tell you what does take studying. It takes studying to try to get around the clear teachings of God's Word on election.

Mr. Smith, in dealing with the case of Pharaoh, says, "Again the context of the Bible won't permit you to say that God is no respecter of persons — except Pharaoh. The Bible won't permit you to say that God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked — except Pharaoh. The Bible won't permit you to say that God is not willing that any should perish — except Pharaoh. The Bible won't permit you to say that God's servant has borne the griefs and carried the sorrows and died for all — except Pharaoh." Well, well, well. Will the Bible permit us to say that God is long suffering to USWARD not willing that any should perish? If so, then those not in the Usward of the elect are not included in this portion of God's Word. God was willing that Pharaoh perish. Pharaoh did perish, and all Hell could not have caused him to perish if God had not been willing for him to perish. Now, Mr. Smith's "failure" god will let men perish against his feeble, anemic, helpless will. But the God of the Bible does whatsoever He wills in the armies of Heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth.

Will the Bible permit us to say, "Surely, he hath borne OUR griefs, and carried OUR sorrows . . ." He was wounded for OUR transgressions, He was bruised for OUR iniquities: the chastisement of OUR peace was upon him, and with his stripes WE are healed." Isa. 53:4, 5. Well, if the Bible permits us to say this, then Pharaoh is not included in the "our" and the "we" of

God's elect. And Pharaoh was not healed with the stripes of the Son of God. And if Pharaoh was not healed with those stripes, then they were not borne for him. Oh, what a god this Noel Smith has. He is a failure. But Noel's christ is as big a failure as Noel's god, and so Pharaoh goes to Hell in spite of the fact that his griefs and sorrows were borne by Noel's christ. Hey, Pharaoh, down there in Hell you are not having any griefs or sorrows are you? Noel Smith said his christ bore all that for you.

Will the Bible permit us to say that Christ laid down His life for the sheep? Well, that does mean except Pharaoh and all the other reprobate goats. Poor, poor Mr. Smith, what trouble he has with Romans nine. It just will not fit in with his Arminian heresy. He studies so hard, and still has trouble with Romans nine.

Well, I am about to be sick. So I don't think I will fool with this rubbish much longer.

Mr. Smith goes on to explain how it is that God foreknew what Pharaoh would do, and that in spite of the mercies God would bestow upon him. Well, whatever mercies they were, they were not the saving mercies of grace bestowed on Jacob and Moses. And they are not doing Pharaoh much good now. Mr. Smith says that God gave Pharaoh as much encouragement to repent as He ever gave any man. Well, I would like for Mr. Smith to show us where God ever made one offer of saving grace to Pharaoh — where God ever even asked Pharaoh to savingly repent.

Mr. Smith closes by saying, "What is so bad about the absolute Sovereign of the universe . . . being a God of compassion and mercy as well as a God of justice." Well, nothing at all, Mr. Smith. But what is so bad about this same absolute Sovereign being sovereign in the bestowal of His mercy and compassion and being sovereign in the exercise of His power? Mr. Smith, this is exactly what Romans nine is teaching. Yet this is exactly what Mr. Smith denies, and since this is printed in B.B.T., I assume that this paper likewise denies God's sovereignty in salvation.

I am through. It is hard to stomach such trash long enough to write a reply to it. Mr. Smith has again shown his rebellion against the Word of God by writing this article. It should go down in literary history alongside the "god is a failure" article. Brethren, let us just believe the truth of God's absolute sovereignty in the bestowal of His mercy and in the exercise of His power and rejoice therein.

God bless you all.



Fred T. Halliman

(Continued from page two)

His Word, either on the field or at home, regardless of the cost to me in support or anything else. Therefore, I believed that God honored, not me as a man above any other of His servants, but my faithfulness to the light that He had given me of His Word, by supplying every need that we had ever had, and that without having to ask for it." Bro. Tiber seemed to be satisfied with this answer.

Beloved preacher brethren, and especially you that are on foreign fields as missionaries, I offer you this same solution to all your problems. I challenge you to cut loose from these man-made organizations and repent of your acquiescence in going out under them in the first place, determined to put your trust in Him, rely upon Him to guide you, and supply your needs, and see for yourself how much better job that He can do than any or all mission boards combined.

May God give you grace to stand up and be counted.