

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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"THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST"

By WILLARD WILLIS — MONROE, OHIO

(Continued from last week)

DANIEL 9:27

The pronoun "he" in the above verse refers to the Anti-Christ. This future ruler of the western world will make a seven-year pact with Israel. He will honor the pact for 3½ years, during which time the Jews will be unified nationally by a strong religion. The Anti-Christ, however, after 3½ years, will suddenly turn on Israel and demand an immediate end to their worship. He, in fact, will require them to worship an image of himself. This will bring Israel to the "abomination of desolation" spoken of in Matthew 24:15.

The extent of the desolation is defined in Revelation 12:13-17:

"And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. And to the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth

water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

The picture of a flood of water coming from the serpent's mouth, in an effort to drown the woman (Israel), is a symbol of an all-out effort by Satan to exterminate Israel. Satan's efforts will result in the death of two-thirds of all Israel.

"And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein"—Zech. 13:8.

This verse informs us that two-thirds of Israel shall die, but Zechariah 13:9 informs us that the remaining one-third shall be saved:

"And I will bring the third part

through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God"—Zech. 13:9.

We have, in Revelation 13, a further description of Satan's efforts to destroy Israel. His efforts, in this chapter, are put forth by way of the Antichrist and the false prophet. The first Beast of Revelation 13 symbolizes the Antichrist — the Beast who will rise up out of the



WILLARD WILLIS

Christ Jesus Or Dear Abby, Which Will It Be America?

By RAYMOND A. WAUGH
San Antonio, Texas

People of America must make their choice. Either Christ Jesus is right or Abigail Van Buren is right. One cannot believe that both speak the truth.

Such a need to choose or such a choice is not unusual.

Since men have been on the earth,



RAYMOND A. WAUGH

they have had to choose between right and wrong, between that which was right in God's sight and that which was "right" in the sight of those who are in the service of Satan. Eve had to choose what God had said, or what Satan said. As Satan approached her with the doubt, "Yea, hath God said?" Eve chose to believe Satan. We know the results.

Cain and Abel had to choose between whether they would worship God in accord with His Holy Word or according to the dictates of their human desires. We know the story of Adam's sons. Abel chose to worship God in accord with His Word and His Command. As a result, he

gave his life as the first martyr to the cause of truth and right. Cain pursued his human interests and worshipped according to his fleshly desires. He quickly learned that he had defied God. When he realized the folly of his way, there was no repentance in his heart — only hatred; he murdered his own brother, Abel.

Quite obviously, it does make a difference what one believes. A man's actions apparently are an outgrowth of his thoughts. It is no wonder then that we find Jesus saying, "Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications . . ."

Some centuries after Cain killed his brother, Abel, a man by the name of Noah had to endure the laughter and the ridicule of the world's masses for more than 100 years. He seemingly felt it made a difference what one believed. He chose to believe God's Word regarding a coming flood rather than the words of men that such an event

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sea — the Beast who will bear a resemblance to a leopard, bear and lion. This western ruler will have world dominion and bring terrible persecution upon all who refuse to worship his image.

"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world"—Revelation 13:8.

The Antichrist will be assisted by the false prophet — the second Beast in Revelation 13. The work of this second Beast will be to deceive by way of many miracles. He will also intensify the persecution of those who refuse to worship the Antichrist.

"And he hath power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and

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How We In Darkness Become The Children Of The Light

By O. B. BAKER
Verona, Ohio

"Who hath delivered us from the power of DARKNESS, and hath translated us into the Kingdom of His dear Son." Col. 1:13.

"Ye are all the children of light, and the children of day; we are not of the night, nor the darkness." I Thess. 5:5.

When black darkness engulfed the earth, the Lord God said, "Let there be LIGHT, and there was (came to be) light." Gen. 1:3.

In this new dawn of light the Lord God placed our first parents. Soon the shadows invaded this blessed Paradise, as a slithering, crafty one, approached our Mother Eve. With these words, "Yea, hath God said?" Gen. 3:3.

As a result, not only did the clouds of darkness overshadow them, but a blinding totality (spiritual darkness) came upon them, and they came to be slaves of him, who is the prince of darkness—Satan.

Oh, what a sad fate was that into which our parents brought themselves. But, this was not the extent of the terrible catastrophe; all their posterity automatically came under the curse. Rom. 5:12.

All the blessedness of the glorious light of Eden was totally lost. Yes, Paradise was emptied. Gen. 3:23-25.

But one glorious day, a new light shall illuminate the whole earth. Isaiah 11; Rom. 8:18-23.

A new paradise shall appear; in this renewed earth—and new paradise—there shall never again appear even the shadow of darkness, because the prince of darkness (Satan) will be confined in a lake of ever-

lasting fire. Rev. 20:10.

Of course, there is an in-between interval which consists of, how many years, we do not know: during this time, our God is calling out a new people whom He designates as "Children or Sons of light." I Thess. 5:5.

This term is applicable to all those who are born of the Spirit, but it has a special significance to those who are faithful in Faithful Baptist



O. B. BAKER

churches. That is, they have the privilege of walking in Light. (Not all God's children walk in the Light; only those who are in a position to do so — i.e., those who are walking where the Light dwells). It is an undeniable fact of Scripture that the Holy Spirit dwells in the midst of Faithful Baptist Churches, and as such, He is the Light for those who walk in these churches. Since a

(Continued on page 6, column 1)

An Expose Of An Attempt To Teach Mourners Bench

By JOE WILSON, SR.
Gladwin, Michigan

I have before me an article which was written in defense of the mourner's bench. It is a very poor article. Indeed, there are many poor things about it. But then, why not, since it is written in defense of a poor cause? I could call it a poor article about a poor cause.

This article is signed by Elder Bobby Sutton. Since it is written on Faith Missionary Baptist Church stationery, I assume that Elder Sutton is the pastor of this church. The church is located in Roseville, Michigan. I see from the map that Roseville is very near Detroit. I would suggest that if Mr. Bobby Sutton should desire to learn some real Bible and Baptist truth, he might visit my good friend, J. Frank McCrum, who pastors in Detroit, or he may travel 150 miles to the North, and visit with us here in Gladwin, because it is surely evident that Mr. Sutton knows very little about Baptist, or Bible truth, on how God saves sinners.

The article to which I refer is headed "CLINGING TO THE ALTAR." The Scripture given is I Kings 2:28-30. This is the account of how Joab, when he learned that Solomon was going to have him killed, fled to the altar. He would not leave the altar, as he was killed at the horns of the altar. He would not leave the altar. Now Mr. Sutton tries to use this to uphold the mourner's bench. What a poor choice of Scripture! The truth is that Joab trusted



JOSEPH M. WILSON

in the altar instead of in the Lord, and so he was lost, and died clinging to the brazen altar. Joab, then, could be used to picture the thousands who go to Hell trusting in the mourner's bench, instead of trusting Jesus Christ. But he cannot picture salvation by the altar, because he died at the altar. His trust in the altar was to no avail. Joab teaches us that trust in the altar instead of in the Lord will not save. So I could use Joab to illustrate that the mourner's bench will not save.

Mr. Sutton says: "God meets with people at the altar."

But we must remember that the O. T. altar was the place where the sacrifice was made, not a mourner's

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The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor John R. Gilpin

"THE NECESSARY THINGS"

"For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things."—Acts 15:28.

Most of us think that there are a lot of things that are necessary in this life, but when we actually consider them and carefully weigh them, we find that there is mighty, mighty little that we think is so important and necessary, that are really and truly necessary in life.

Some of you are old enough to remember the depression days of the early '30's. I am sure that if you remember those days, you re-

call how you had to cut your garment according to the amount of material that you had, to use a figure of speech. I am sure that those of you who are old enough to remember those days, will recall that there were things you found you could get along without, that you used to think were an absolute necessity for life.

I have found that to be true many, many times in life. I have come to the place often in life where I thought that things that had been absolutely essential and necessary, in reality were not nec-

essary, and I could get along without them.

I remember a few years ago when my salary as pastor was cut off completely in one day's time, and I had nothing to fall back upon so far as a church salary was concerned, it became necessary for me to make several adjustments and changes. For example, I used to always (and this is a very small thing, but it will illustrate the point) think that I couldn't get my day started right unless I read the Courier-Journal. (Continued on page 2, column 1)

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"Necessary Things"

(Continued from page one)

I have always said that the Louisville Courier-Journal was the outstanding newspaper published in America, that it was the best edited and best written in every respect. I took it for over thirty years' time, and read it regularly and religiously every morning. But when the time came that I just had to cut expense after expense, and cut to the very minimum so far as my expenditures were concerned, I found that even the Courier-Journal could be laid aside and I still lived and went on, and my work went on, and the sun didn't stop shining because I didn't have the Courier-Journal to read in the morning.

As I say, that is a very small thing, but I use it as an illustration to show you that there are lots of things we think are so necessary, that in actuality are not necessary for our lives.

However, there are some things that are absolutely indispensable. This morning, I want to tell you of seven things that I consider positively indispensable, and absolutely necessary.

I WITHOUT SHEDDING OF BLOOD THERE IS NO REMISSION.

Without the blood-shedding of the Lord Jesus Christ there can be no remission of sin. Listen:

"And without shedding of blood is no remission."—Heb. 9:22.

I don't care how many churches an individual may join. I don't care how many times, nor in what way he has been baptized, or at least received so-called baptism. I don't care what his religious experiences have been in life thus far. I say that without the shedding of blood, there is no remission.

If you will note, this is actually based upon Old Testament typology, for Paul, in this 9th chapter of Hebrews is referring to the typology of the Old Testament. If you will go back to the Old Testament, you will find that nobody was ever saved except through the shedding of blood that looked forward to the coming of Christ, and the shedding of His blood on the cross of Calvary.

For example, if you go back to the days of Adam, when Adam and his wife sinned and then used fig-leaf garments to cover their nakedness, the Word of God tells us how God came down in the cool of the day, and rejected the garments which Adam and Eve had made for themselves. God Himself killed a lamb and made garments, or coats of skin, to clothe this man and his wife as a result of their sin. The Word of God tells us what God did for them in that an innocent lamb had to shed its blood in order that they might be clothed as a result of their sin.

In Genesis 3, you will find that the shedding of blood was a necessity, and when you come to Genesis, you will find that two boys, Cain and Abel, came to worship before God. When they came into the presence of God, Cain came with some garden vegetables or maybe some grain that he had grown — something that he himself had produced, whereas Abel came with a bloody, dripping lamb from his flock. The Word of God says that God had respect unto the offering of Abel, but He had not respect unto the offering of Cain.

Why? Because Cain's offering was not an offering of blood. Cain's offering was a "thank offering." Cain came, saying, "Lord, I thank you for your goodness. I am thankful for all your blessings and I bring what I have produced myself as a sign of my thankfulness to you for what you have done for me." Abel came with a bloody, dripping, helpless lamb, saying, "Lord, I am just as helpless as this lamb that I have killed, and I am depending upon this blood that looks forward to the blood of your Son, who is going to die for my sins, yonder in the future."

I tell you, beloved, God respected the offering of Abel, whereas God had no respect for the offering of Cain. In other words, even in the earliest chapters of the Word of God, you will find that it was by the shedding of blood that sins were remitted.

Then when you come to the book of Exodus, and the book of Leviticus, and get the story of the types and the sacrifices that the Jews offered, you will find that every one of those were looking forward to the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. See them, for example, when they took the offering and put it upon the brazen altar — when they killed that animal and the fire underneath burned that sacrifice. You could hear the blood sputter as it dripped upon the burning coals beneath. Every time that a burning ember sputtered with the blood, it is saying, "This individual is saved by the shedding of blood." He was not saved by the blood of that animal, but he was saved in prospect as he looked forward to the time when the Son of God was going to die for his sin, and to give His blood upon the Cross of Calvary to save him.

Then the day that Jesus came into this world, John the Baptist saw Him as He walked along the shores of the Sea of Galilee, and John pointed to Him and said:

"Behold the Lamb of God, which

taketh away the sin of the world."

—John 1:29.

Why didn't John say that the lambs of God were typified here? I'll tell you why. Never one time in the Old Testament was the lamb spoken of in the plural, but always in the singular.

I understand through Bible scholars that at least a quarter of a million lambs were used annually by the Jews in their religious ceremony. Think of it, a quarter of a million — 250,000 lambs sacrificed by the Jews every year as they carried out their religion—but not one time did they ever refer to it in the plural. It was always the Lamb, and when Jesus walked by, John the Baptist said, "That is the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world."

Would to God that every Baptist preacher from that time down to this had been as loyal to Jesus Christ as the first Baptist preacher — John the Baptist. If we all had been as loyal to the Son of God as was John the Baptist, there wouldn't be but one church in the world today. There wouldn't be but one religion in the world today. There wouldn't be but one truth taught so far as salvation was concerned. There wouldn't be but one way of salvation offered today, and that would be through Jesus — the blood of the Lamb.

When Jesus came to Calvary and hung there upon the cross, He gripped the nails that held Him to the cross, and as the blood

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dropped down to the ground, He hung there and died for our sins. It was because of this that when Jesus died, He cried, saying, "It is finished."

Just His life finished? No, beloved, but the plan of salvation. Salvation itself was complete in the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. You don't meet the blood of Jesus in the church. You don't meet the blood of Jesus in the water. You don't meet the blood of Jesus Christ in the baptism. Rather, you meet the blood of Jesus Christ alone at Calvary.

When I come to this text in Heb. 9:22, which says, "And without shedding of blood is no remission," I say to you this is one of the indispensable things — it is one of the necessary things. The blood of Jesus Christ is indispensable and necessary for our salvation.

II

WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD.

You may please your wife, you may please your husband, you may please your friends, you may please your associates, you may please the people you work with



"...through sickness and health, for better or worse, through baseball season, football season, golf season..."

or work for, but you can't please God without faith. Listen:

"But without faith it is impossible to please him."—Heb. 11:6.

If you are unsaved, I ask you, have you ever pleased God one single time in your life? No, you haven't. The reason is, because you haven't faith. Faith comes as a gift from God, and an unsaved person has never pleased God, not even for one single fleeting minute of his life.

Imagine a good man morally, who is a community builder, a great man in his community, as he stands in God's sight, never having pleased God one day of his life — yea, never having pleased God for an hour — yea, never having pleased God one minute of his life. Is it possible that a man can be a good man for a community, who pleases his neighbors and friends and associates, yet never has pleased God one single minute of his life? Beloved, without faith, it is impossible to please Him.

Faith — what is it? It is just taking God at His word. We read:

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."—Heb. 11:1.

This is a theological definition. If you will break it down, it means just this, that faith is taking God at His word. You just take God at His word, and believe what God says, and that is faith.

I often think about Abraham. What a man of faith he was! One day he whispers a mandate into the ears of his servants and they scatter out in the four directions. I wonder all day what it is that he has told these servants. When the evening time comes, I see herds-men and shepherds coming in every direction, bringing their flocks to the central camping grounds. I say, "Abraham, isn't this just a little bit unusual that you are bringing in your flocks and your herds all to one place tonight?" Abraham says, "Yes, this is the first time we have ever done this." I say, "Abraham, what is the reason?" He says, "We are moving tomorrow." I say, "You are moving? Is there something wrong in the community? Are the nations roundabout rising up to war against you?" Abraham says, "No, we are in perfect peace with

them." I say, "Abraham, has the water supply run out, and has the grazing run out? What is the reason for this sudden move that you are making?" Then it is that Abraham says, "God said for me to do it, and I am moving tomorrow because God said to do so." I say, "Abraham, where are you going?" He says, "I don't know." I say, "Abraham, do you mean to tell me that you are leaving this place where you are at peace with your neighbors and the nations roundabout, and you are leaving a place where there is good grazing facilities and plenty of water for your flocks and herds, and you are going some place, and you don't know where you are going, and you are doing it just because God told you to do it?" Abraham says, "That is right."

Beloved, that is faith. That is just taking God at His word.

I see Abraham later as an old man, a hundred years old. Oh, what a sight — an old man a hundred years old, working on a little piece of wood about three feet long, hollowing it out, and fixing it so that it will rock back and forth from one side to the other. I say, "Abraham, what are you doing?" He says, "I am making a cradle." I say, "Abraham, are you getting this ready as a gift for one of your servants?" He says, "No, we are going to have a baby at our house, and I am getting ready." I say, "Abraham, you are joking." I look around and there is old Sarah sitting there with her rheumatic hands, working on some little squares about so big. I see Abraham working, and I see her working, and I say, "Abraham, you are surely joking." But there is a look of seriousness and earnestness that comes over the face of Abraham, and he says, "I am not joking. God said that we're going to have a baby born in our home." I say, "Abraham, that is an impossibility. Biologically and physiologically, it is impossible for a woman 90 years of age to bear a baby." I can see old Abraham as he winces. Those are strong words when you tell him that biologically and physiologically, his wife can't have a child. I see him wince (Continued on page 3, column 1)

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

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PAGE TWO

HOW CAN WE KNOW THAT WE ARE SAVED?

By RONALD E. LUMPKIN
1008 Kavanaugh Street
Mansfield, Louisiana 71052

The writer has felt a pressing need to teach this great Bible truth in view of the "falling away" and the Laodicean church age. It has not been written to give a false assurance to any who are not truly born again believers, but that God's elect might rejoice in these perilous times in the knowledge of God's faithfulness to save to the uttermost all that come unto Him through the precious blood of Jesus Christ. The Word of God has not been written for the reprobate and unbelieving world, but for the world of God's chosen people. Therefore, I must send this message forth for the edification of those for whom Christ died.

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe (continue to believe or remain steadfast in this belief) on the name of the Son of God."—I John 5:13.

I.

"Once saved always saved" is a Bible doctrine! But not all of God's people have a solid assurance that they are born again. A baby must first be born into this world. Then he learns to crawl, and then to walk, and finally to run. God's people must go through a similar process of spiritual growth in order to reach maturity as a Christian. Some remain babes most of their spiritual lives. Others, in the process of spiritual growth, will stumble and fall occasionally as they learn to walk and run. In fact, I don't know of a single exception to this rule of life, either physically or spiritually, other than the Lord Jesus Christ. The great apostle Paul said that he had not yet reached the state of perfection in this life. Read Philippians 3:12-14. He further confessed that he was the chief of sinners. I Timothy 1:15. We must not excuse ourselves lightly when we sin, for he which is born of God doth not commit sin. I John 5:18. However, if we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. I John 2:1.

Let us not then be dismayed when we sin and think that we shall be forever banished from the presence of the Saviour. Thomas doubted, Peter denied, and Paul disobeyed the Lord. Are we any better than these the foundation pillars of the first church? In the light of our text, we must observe that assurance is an age-old problem faced by believers in every century. Some might be so presumptuous as to say they have never doubted their salvation. "Doubt and be damned" is an old, but false, saying! Satan has used this lie to deceive and hinder many of God's people. We are told in the Word to make our calling and election sure. See II Peter 1:10. When Jesus spoke to the disciples at the Last Supper, He said that one of them would betray Him into the hands of sinful men. All of the disciples began to say unto Him, "Lord is it I?" Have you, too, not said, "Lord, is it I who am the 'tare'? Is it I who am the enemy?" If you have, then this message is for you.

A backsliding Christian can look a lot like a "goat" (lost person) to some faithful sheep and shepherds. The darkness of a Christian can become very dark! We do not lose our salvation, but we lose our outward identity as children of God, and we lose our witness and testimony for Him. Matthew 6:23. **"If, therefore, the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness?"** Jesus was here addressing his disciples in the Sermon on the Mount. Our lights, then, can be put under a bushel. Matthew 5:14-16.

How bright do you suppose King David's light shone following his sin with Bathsheba? And was not Peter's lamp burning rather low when he denied Christ thrice? Surely "doubting Thomas" could have used a little oil in his lamp as he refused to believe in his "risen" Lord without seeing the wounds of his suffering? Even faithful Abraham wandered down into Egypt for a while. Egypt (the world typically) is quite a dark place, you know. We might well weary ourselves if we spoke of the "valleys of sin" through which Lot, Samson, Noah, and other of God's children trod. These were not wicked men, but rather God's precious sheep, temporarily dragged into the mud by Satan. Though often soiled by our great enemies of sin, self, and Satan, yet we have the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 7:23-25. Thanks be unto God that we can know that we are saved! Brethren, good works do not save us, but we must

work out our own "salvation" with fear and trembling. Philippians 2:12. How good it is to sing "Blessed Assurance" and to know that you are a child of the King!

John Bunyan, in his famous work, *Pilgrim's Progress*, deals quite capably with the subject at hand. The child of God would do well to learn the practical and spiritual truths set forth in this great book. I have read it at least three times, and it has blessed my life each time with greater assurance in my Lord and His precious promises to His children. Charles Haddon Spurgeon, "the prince of preachers," as he has often been called, read this book over one hundred times. What a great testimony of this man, John Bunyan, who spent many years in prison reading the greatest book, the Bible. O, that God would turn His people today back to the great Puritan and Biblical ideals of "spiritual giants," like Spurgeon and Bunyan!

Beloved, God's people can know that they are saved and can live a victorious life. Many faithful saints of old, attest to this fact. Paul was firmly convinced that he was born again and that Jesus Christ, his Saviour, would keep him saved until the day of redemption.

"... for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" II Timothy 1:12.

Job had a deep conviction that death and the grave could not separate him from the love and presence of his Saviour!

"For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God; Whom I shall see for myself and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me" Job 19:25-27.

Abraham looked for an eternal city whose builder and maker is God, wherein he would dwell forever. By faith he was firmly convinced that he would inherit every promise that God gave him. Hebrews 11:8-12. He believed that he was an eternal son of God through God's marvelous, elective grace! Countless other of God's "sheep," though often weak, destitute, and doubting, were nevertheless undergirded by a supreme assurance that they would live again after this life in "mansions beyond." They loved not their lives unto death. Hebrew 11:32-40; John 14:1-3.

II.

Can we have this deep-seated assurance that these saints of old had? Yes, we can! Again, I say we can know that we are saved and be firmly assured of eternal life! Let us notice a few definite and incontestable characteristics that are evidence that Christ dwells in us richly.

(1) **"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin"** I John 1:7. Light and fellowship are concrete signs of the indwelling spirit of God. The natural or lost man walks in darkness. Though he may have some outward moral goodness, yet he habitually walks in darkness. On the contrary, the born-again individual generally, or habitually, walks in the light. Though he may have outward taints of sin in his mortal body because of the curse of the Law, (Romans 7:14-25), yet he is a "shining light" in contrast with the unbeliever! Light represents God and good in Bible typology, and darkness represents Satan and evil. He that is of God loves to walk in the light and he that is of Satan loves to walk in darkness. John 3:19-21.

(2) **"And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him"** I John 2:3-5. If we keep His commandments, we have strong evidence to believe that we belong to His family, for the children delight to do the will of the Father, who has forgiven their sins for Jesus' sake (upon His merits). I John 2:12. The undisciplined life of a reprobate individual betrays any claim that he may make on eternal life. Though the religious Pharisee may strive to keep the law (Ten Commandments), yet his deceit and treachery and feigned or mocking pretense of worship prove him to be a liar of the first degree. David loved the commandments of the Lord. He was a man after God's own heart. (Psalms 119:11, 24, 47, 59-60, 97, 140 and many more). A continual and habitual

desire or motivation to keep God's commandments and to reach the goal of perfection that God's standards demand, is ample proof that Jesus is the "Master" of our lives. **"He that is of God heareth God's word!"** John 8:47. A good soldier seeks to please his commander. II Timothy 2:4.

(3) If we love our brothers in Christ and have a definite affinity or attraction to God's people, surely God's love must be in us. Love is of God and God is love. I John 2:9-11; 3:14; 4:7-10. The love of God does not spawn hate for His people nor among His people. Let us be careful as we outwardly and vocally assert our love for God, that we be not overly critical and malicious (hateful) toward our brethren. In so doing, we may be found unintentional "liars." I John 4:19-21. We do not mean to misrepresent our love for our Lord. However, through the weakness of the flesh, we often fall into this trap of Satan. Let us put away from us evil speaking and clamouring, and love our brothers also. If we love not our brethren by sight, then surely we cannot love God by faith!

(4) **"If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of Him"** I John 2:29. If we do righteousness, we manifest the subjection of our mortal and frail bodies to the image of Christ Jesus, our example in holy living. When I see a holy life, I see a child of God. I see divinity implanted in an earthen vessel. II Corinthians 4:7. Without holiness, no man shall see God! Hebrew 12:14. The morality of religious "do-gooders" will avail nothing before the all-seeing eyes of the Almighty. Proverbs 15:3. Except our righteousness exceed the righteousness of the scribes, we shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of Heaven. Matthew 5:20. We can know that we are saved if our righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees! Assurance is truly blessed, but the self-righteousness of the Pharisees is deceitful. Many shall point to their good works and deeds in the "day of judgment," but the Master shall say unto them, "Depart from me, ye that work iniquity." He shall profess unto them a sad and dreadful declaration, "I never knew you." What a joy it is to know assuredly that God knew us intimately and loved us with an everlasting love! Matthew 7:21-23; Jeremiah 31:3. But O, how fearful to consider for a moment that one may well be eternally despised of the Almighty! Romans 9:1-23; Psalms 11:5-7. Let me carefully affirm that we are not saved by works of righteousness which we have done, but by the gracious mercies and imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ our Lord. Titus 3:5; Romans 4:5-8. However, in contrast with the self-righteousness of the Pharisees, the end result of true Godly righteousness is peace, quietness and assurance forever! Isaiah 32:17.

(5) **"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world . . ."** I John 5:4-5. If we are overcomers, our joy should be great, for he only that is born of God overcomes the world (world system). Only believers have the God-given ability to overcome Satan and his evil forces. The overcomers shall rule and reign with Christ 1,000 years! Revelation 20:6; Revelation 3:21. Yes, brethren, the saints shall judge the world and the angels! I Corinthians 6:2-3. Let me be very careful to emphasize the importance of faithfulness in relation to our position during the literal reign of Christ over the earth. Our faithfulness does not "save us," but rather Christ's faithfulness obtained eternal redemption for us. However, our "faithfulness" or "faithlessness" will surely be rewarded. I believe that the faithful of the Lord's church (institutionally speaking) will shine exceedingly bright during the millennial reign of Christ. Matthew 25:20-23. Daniel said, "They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars forever and ever." Daniel 12:3b. Faithfulness and overcoming are surely signs and assurance that Jesus dwells in our mortal bodies and that the Holy Spirit controls us.

(6) **"... And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us."** I John 3:24b. In conclusion, let me introduce to you the "cap-stone" of our assurance of eternal life. The Holy Spirit which God hath given us is that divine "executive" being that indwells every believer. The believer has God's personal witness in himself! I John 5:6, 10. If we had no other assurance of salvation save the indwelling Spirit of God, we would have an overwhelming testimony! In Him we live and move and have our being. Acts 17:28. We live by the permission and express will of

God (spiritually and physically), John 1:13; I Timothy 4:10. We move and breathe by the power of God's creative and sustaining Spirit. Genesis 1:2; Genesis 2:7. Our salvation is sealed by the Holy Spirit unto the "day of redemption." Ephesians 1:13-14. It is therefore chained or locked up by the Spirit for safe-keeping. The Spirit given to us in salvation is the "earnest" (downpayment), or first-fruits of our eternal inheritance as sons of God and heirs and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ. I John 3:1-2. Romans 8:14-17 is powerful in assurance. Those led by the "Spirit of God" are "sons of God." The Spirit adopted us into the family of God and delivered us from the family of darkness, or the kingdom of darkness. Colossians 1:13. The Spirit witnesses to our spirits (inner being, mind, or seat of affections) that we are children of God; and, if children, then glorious heirs! I must further observe that our bodies are the "temple" or dwelling place of the Holy Spirit — God which is in us. Beloved brethren, our bodies are not ours. We belong to God! His Son purchased us unto the Father by His precious blood and the Spirit possesses us or claims us for His service.

As we said at the beginning of this message, not all of God's children presently have this blessed assurance. Degrees of assurance are predicated on a more complete knowledge of God's Word. David said this: **"Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee."** Psalms 119:11. He said further, **"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."** Psalms 119:105; Jesus said, **"Ye are clean through the word which I have spoken to you."** John 15:3. Beloved, let us not neglect the Word of God, which is able to make us wise unto salvation. II Timothy 3:15-17. Only by a more complete knowledge of the Holy Scriptures can we come to the full assurance of understanding of the mysteries of godliness. Colossians 2:2. Brethren, the gospel came to us in much assurance by the effectual workings of the Holy Spirit. I Thessalonians 1:5. Therefore, let us draw near to God with a full assurance and joy of our salvation, for "we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe unto the saving of the soul." Hebrews 10:22 and 39.

III

I would like to quote a grand portion of God's word penned by the apostle Paul to the Hebrew Christians. This passage well expresses my convictions concerning this glorious subject, and also my desires for every saint of God, the world over.

"Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go unto perfection (completion); not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit. For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God; but that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned. But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak. For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience, inherit the promises." Hebrews 6:1-12.

I leave my readers these verses, and pray that the blessed Spirit may effectually teach you all the glorious truths therein. To comment would take yet many pages. As we reflect upon the grand theme of eternal security, may we honor and love and serve our great God, who has taken every "precaution" to assure us of life, joy and happiness without end in His eternal Paradise! May the Lord bless each believer with full assurance of this most priceless gift of God!

"Necessary Things"

(Continued from page two)

beneath the weight of the pain of the words that I have spoken. I see it only for a moment though, as he rallies and says, "But God said it, and I believe it, because

God said it."

Beloved, that is faith — just taking God at His word.

By and by, that baby comes, and I see old Abraham and Sarah, the proudest parents in all the world, as they hold little Isaac in their arms and look down upon

him, and say, "This is the child of faith."

Beloved, that is faith — taking God at His Word.

I say, beloved, faith is necessary, it is indispensable, for without faith it is impossible to please Him. An unsaved man has never

pleased God for one moment in his life because he doesn't have faith and a child of God can't please God either unless he walks by faith, and believes God, and takes God at His word every day.

III

WITHOUT WORKS, FAITH IS

DEAD.

We read:

"For as a body without the spirit" (Continued on page 5, column 2)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

FEBRUARY 9, 1974

PAGE THREE

The Baptist Examiner FORUM

"Is Holy Spirit baptism done today? Our pastor used verses I Cor. 12:13, Romans 6:1-10, Gal. 3:26-29, etc. to support his position that it is being done today."

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Our Lord was very careful to tell us what the Holy Spirit would do in this age. Among those things He was to abide with us for ever, John 14:16. In verse 17, He is to be in us, and in verse 26, He is to teach us all things, and to bring to our remembrance what our Lord has said. In John 15:26, we are told that He will testify of Christ. In John 16:8, He is to reprove, or convict the world of sin. And in verse 13, He is to guide us into all truth, and show us things to come. But I challenge anyone to give a reference that says He is to baptize anything, or anybody any where, any time. If we are unable to find where we are told that He is to baptize, we just might be adding to the Word of God when we say He does baptize today.

It is true that our version does say in I Cor. 12:13, "For by one Spirit." But this word "by" comes from the little Greek word EN which can be translated by at least four different English words. There are those who seem to think that all a translator has to do is just copy the Greek into the English. Those who think that do so because they have never had any experience with a foreign language. But in our King James Bible, the translators translated that little Greek word EN "among" 114 times, "with" 139 times, "by" 142 times and "in" 1863 times. Why they translated it "by" in this verse the Lord only knows. They should have used the word here that would harmonize with other references on the subject. For instance, in Rom. 8:9 we are told that we are in the Spirit if the Spirit of God dwells in us. Had they put it "by the Spirit" here it would have sounded foolish. They simply had to put it "in the spirit" here in order for it to make sense. Then had they wanted I Cor. 12:13 to harmonize with Rom. 8:9 they would have been forced to put it, "In one Spirit are we all baptized into one body." Meaning of course, that both Jews and Gentiles are baptized (water baptism) into the same local church. There was not to be a church for Jews and another for Gentiles. But both were to be members of the same church. So when anyone hangs the doctrine of Holy Spirit baptism on the word "by" in I Cor. 12:13, he is hanging it on a rather flimsy peg.

When we come to Rom. 6:1-10, it is absolutely essential that we stop with verse 3, if we want to argue Holy Spirit baptism. This is true because verse 4 is proof positive that Paul was talking about water baptism. Only by immersion in water are we buried with Christ in baptism. There is absolutely no other way it can be done. And the word "therefore" at the beginning of verse 4 ties it in with verse 3. So we know that verse 3 is also talking about water baptism, that is, immersion in water.

In Gal. 3:27, we see the same baptism into Christ that we saw in Rom. 6:3. And since that in

Rom. 6:3 was by immersion in water, it goes without saying that the same baptism here in Gal. 3:27 must, of necessity, be by immersion in water, also. No one who really believes Eph. 4:5 can possibly believe in a Holy Spirit baptism in our day. There we read, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism." If a person is going to ignore that verse and go on believing there are two different kinds of baptism in our day, he should go on just a very short step further, and believe there are two different Lords in our day. If there are two of one of them, there are two of the other. Every Holy Spirit baptist I have ever known, believes there is a water baptism in our day. So he simply has to believe there are two kinds in our day in spite of Eph. 4:5.

On the day of Pentecost, and in the house of Cornelius in Acts 10, our Lord actually immersed His disciples in the Holy Spirit. Our Lord was the agent who did the baptizing, and the Holy Spirit was the element in which they were baptized. So I contend that the Holy Spirit has never baptized anything, or anybody anywhere, anytime. So, since the day of Pentecost and Peter's sermon in the house of Cornelius, there is, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism," and you had better believe it.

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The best way to answer this question, I believe, is to discuss briefly the Scripture mentioned and Holy Spirit baptism.

"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." (I Cor. 12:13). If this verse of Scripture meant a universal baptism by the Holy Spirit, then we would have a universal, invisible church. The only way we can find Scripture that teaches this is to misapply it. The 12th chapter is speaking of the gifts of the Spirit to the church (see verse 4). The passages here are showing that the one Spirit works in all believers in a variety of ways, except in baptism. Verse 13 is emphasizing the fact that all believers are led into baptism by the same spirit. Paul is saying that we all are baptized into a body. In order to show the difference, he says in verse 27: "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." Paul did not mean that he was not in the body of Christ, but that he was not in the body of Christ at Corinth. I was baptized into one body, you were baptized into another body, but I can say in explanation that we all were baptized into the body of Christ. In other words, baptism is the ceremonial door into the church.

Romans 6:1-10 and Galatians 3:26-29 are both showing the fact that baptism is our public declaration of our discipleship. We are saying that we have "put on" Christ, that we are dead to sins, and alive in Christ. No person should be baptized unless he intends to live like Christ.

There is no indication of the need of the continuation of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. When Christ went back, He promised that

the Holy Spirit would come to remain with us. He came on the day of Pentecost. "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:1-4). This was repeated to the Gentiles as recorded in Acts 10:44. "While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word." This was a supplemental act of the Holy Spirit to the church to show that Gentiles as well as Jews received Him.

Many times we get off on a tangent about certain things, and we misuse Scripture in order to try to prove our position. The use of the Scripture in your question is a gross misuse of Scripture.

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The verses cited to support Holy Spirit baptism today are examples of the careless misappropriation of the Scriptures which is so pervasive among modern religionists.

The tongues movement, under the guise of several different names, such as the "charismatic" and "full gospel" movements, has gained broad acceptance in religious circles. Some of the reasons for the success of this phenomena are: a. The need, basic in all humans, for religious experience; b. The expression of that need in a manner which requires the least amount of obedience to God and His word, and yet fulfills the basic desire for an emotionally rewarding experience; c. The tongues

movement is deceptively designed to meet those needs, and has ensnared many into the performance of the flesh as a counterfeit to the regenerating and sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in a saint.

The claim that such an emotional experience is "Holy Spirit baptism" is totally unfounded in God's

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Holy Word and, in fact, is prohibited in the Scriptures.

After many years of having been exposed to this type of exhibition, certain observations and conclusions can be reached.

The tongues people claim that their experience is "deep," yet adherents to this belief can be nearly totally ignorant of the doctrine of Christ and still be deep in Jesus.

The outstanding characteristics of these folk is not their "depth," but their shallowness and carelessness in the handling of the precious Word of God.

As to the verses cited by our querist, let it be made clear that the promoters of the tongues movement use many other verses of Scripture to support their exercises, none of which are valid in application to their cause.

Rom. 6:1-10 has direct reference to the ordinance of water baptism which our Lord delivered to His church. It is amazing that a pastor, who is supposed to be a workman in the Word, could not see this.

I Cor. 12:13 — the context here is teaching the relationship of the body of Christ (local church) to one another. The word spirit is not capitalized in the original language, and therefore means one kind of spirit. This is speaking of the spirit of unity of mind and heart in being baptized (water baptism) into the church (body of

Christ) which is local and visible.

Gal. 3:26-29 — the baptism referred to here is identical in all aspects to that of I Cor. 12:13.

When one views this religious practice, and feels strongly against its correctness, as this writer does, he must be prepared to state his reasons for condemning it.

It is deceptively dangerous and should be disdained by all sound Baptists.

God willing, we hope to prepare a small booklet on the subject in the near future.

ROY
MASON

RADIO MINISTER
BAPTIST PREACHER

Aripeka, Florida



No, I do not believe that Holy Spirit baptism is received in this day. The Holy Spirit was sent in baptismal power on Pentecost, and then later, when the Lord wanted to make it indisputably clear that Gentiles can be saved as well as Jews, the Spirit came in the same mighty power to those of the household of Cornelius. But we do not find a continuation of this through the New Testament. If Holy Spirit baptism constituted God's order for this age, would we not be commanded to be so baptized, and would we not have plain instructions as to HOW to receive this? But we don't have any command to be so baptized, and we don't have any instructions given as to how to receive such.

Now as to the Scriptures used by the pastor to bolster up his argument for Holy Spirit baptism, let us take a look at them.

1. The passage in I Cor. 12:13. Here is one of the worst abused Scriptures in the Bible. It is used to bolster up the Universal Church theory. It is assumed that all believers are somehow given a mysterious, Spirit baptism, that puts them into the Universal Church. The "one body" mentioned here is the church at Corinth. Paul says (Continued on page 5, column 2)



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AND FOR WOMEN

"DISCRETION"

"The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; that they may teach the younger women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, **TO BE DISCREET**"—(Titus 2:3-5).

The word "discreet" means several things, and each one seems to complement the other. Some of the definitions as used in the Scriptures are: self-control, understanding, careful, watchful, and having a sound mind.

The modern "liberated" woman has the attitude of "I don't care." She doesn't care what anyone thinks, knows, or says about her. She is in direct opposition to "discreet." The Christian woman has been greatly influenced by this attitude. It shows in much of our rebellion against our place in the home and church. Many times we take the attitude of "I don't care what people say, I'm going to do so and so . . ." Many a Christian woman has failed to have a discreet tongue. She thinks nothing of rebuking her pastor, or one of the men in the church. Oh, how we need the admonition of Prov. 11:22: "As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion."

Even the ungodly know the value of discretion. When Pharaoh chose Joseph to be Prime Minister of Egypt, one of the qualifications was his discretion. "And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath showed thee all this, there is none so DISCREET and wise as thou art" (Gen. 41:39). Joseph evidenced this grace by his self-control, understanding, and sound mind.

When we practice discretion, it will keep us from sin. Isn't that wonderful? The Proverbs tells us, "The DISCRETION of a man deferreth his anger" and "DISCRETION shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee" (19:11; 2:11).

We need to recognize the woman's liberation movement as the anti-Christ theology that it really is. It isn't just a fad or a joking matter. It isn't just a few fanatic women doing their own thing that will soon pass. We need to admit that it has an influence on us. Then

we can be on guard against it. It is hard to fight an enemy unless we admit it is one. We, as Christ's disciples, don't want to be as a pig with a gold jewel in our nose. That's what the Bible says we are when we follow the attitude of the women of the world.

If we lack discretion (and who doesn't?), let us turn to the Word of God. For Isaiah tells us, "For his God doth instruct him to DISCRETION, and doth teach him"—(Isa. 28:26).

The Forum

Continued from page 4

so in verse 27, where he says, "Now ye are the body of Christ." The baptism mentioned is WATER BAPTISM — not Spirit baptism.

2. The passage in Rom. 6:1-10. Reference here is to water baptism. This is made clear in verse 4 which says, "Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism unto death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead, . . . even so we should walk in newness of life." The death, burial and resurrection of Christ is clearly portrayed in true water baptism.

3. Gal. 3:26-29. Reference here is likewise to water baptism. A part of the Great Commission, is the command, "Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost." No reference here to Holy Spirit baptism. The Galatians mentioned in this chapter had obeyed the commission.

Added to what we have already said is the fact that we are told to "be filled with the Spirit." We would certainly be commanded to be baptized by the Spirit, and be told how to go about this, had the Lord wanted us to obtain such a baptism, but no, we are neither commanded to have such an experience, nor are we told how it could be brought about.

"Necessary Things"

(Continued from page three)

it is dead, so faith without works is dead also."—James 2:26.

Here is a verse of Scripture that is the most misunderstood verse of the Word of God. All the Arminians who believe that we are saved by works, or at least by a combination of our works and the finished work of Christ, say that this verse teaches us that a man has to work in order to be saved, and they go back to the 20th verse and quote it, which says that "Faith without works is dead." Then they read this 26th verse which says that "Faith without works is dead also." Then they say that man is saved by his works.

Not so, beloved! The works that James is talking about is not the works that justify a man in the sight of God, but it is the works that justify a man in the sight of men. He is not talking about the works whereby we are saved, but he is talking about the works whereby the world looks at us and says that man is saved. There is a lot of difference between being saved by works, and the fact that the world sees that you are saved because of your works. No man has ever been saved by his works, but the world sees that you are saved by the works that you do.

In this passage of Scripture, he uses an illustration, for he talks about Abraham offering his son, Isaac, upon the altar. Beloved, when did he offer his son Isaac upon the altar? It was forty years after he was justified by faith.

Notice that it was forty years after Abraham was justified by faith that he offered his son, Isaac, on the altar as a sacrifice, which would tell us that he is talking here about the works that justify a man — not in the sight of God, but the works that justify him in the sight of men.

So far as I am concerned, the only work that justifies me in the sight of God was the finished work of Jesus Christ at Calvary, whereby I was justified in God's sight. But what I do every day justifies me in the eyes of the world. I say, beloved, without works, faith is dead.

IV

WITHOUT HOLINESS, NO MAN SHALL SEE THE LORD.

We read:

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."—Hebrews 12:14.

This is the verse that the Holy Rollers are always harping about. This is the verse that they are always talking about. But notice what kind of holiness he is talking about. Is he talking about your holiness?

I have gone to tent meetings as a lad, and have seen Holy Rollers run up and down the aisle and the women pull their hair down, and they tell how holy they were. Beloved, that is not the holiness that the Lord is talking about. The holiness that He is talking about is the imputed holiness, or the imputed righteousness, of Jesus Christ.

When I was saved, all of my sins were laid over on Jesus Christ, and the righteousness of Jesus Christ was put over on me, so that Jesus got my sins, and I got His holiness and righteousness. What a trade I made that day! I traded my sins for the holiness and righteousness of Jesus Christ, and I have been covered from that time down to this in the holiness and

righteousness of the Son of God.

I thank Him this morning because of this truth, and I rejoice when I read that it says that without holiness no man shall see the Lord. All of us are unholy, impure, sinful wretches in the sight of God, and the only way that we will see God is in the righteousness of Jesus Christ — the imputed holiness of the Son of God.

Years ago, I preached a sermon on this thought, saying that I am clothed in the righteousness or the holiness of the Lord Jesus Christ. One man who believed in salvation

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by works went out furiously mad, and said that "he didn't want to go to Heaven in another man's coat." Beloved, I'll say this, if he ever gets to Heaven, he'll get there in another man's coat, for he'll be clothed in the holiness and righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

V

WITHOUT LOVE, I AM NOTHING.

How much influence would your life have if it were not seasoned with love? Who is going to be interested in your religion if you look like you have bitten into a sour plum? Suppose you went around every day with a look on your face like you could lick oats out of the bottom of a ten-gallon bucket. Who would be interested in your religion? Who would be interested in that kind of conversion? Who would want to be saved if that was what religion does to you? If you can't put a smile on that face of yours — if you can't show some love in that face of yours, what individual is going to be uninterested in being a child of God? I say, beloved, without love, we are nothing.

We read:

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing."—I Cor. 13:1-3.

Paul is talking about the perfect man. You might as well say that he is looking at all the great men and leaving out the false. Notice what he says: "Though I speak with the tongues of men."

If a man in college is able to speak Greek, Hebrew, Latin, German and French, he is considered quite a linguist. He is considered quite a scholar. I went to Toronto in 1928 for the World's Baptist Alliance and saw a man who was acting as translator for the various nations of the world, who could speak forty-two languages. When the individuals from the various countries gave their report in their language, this man interpreted it and gave to the audience in English the message of these people from foreign countries. As I looked at him, I thought, what a linguist — what a scholar — he is, who could speak forty-two languages!

This Scripture says, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels." Suppose I knew all the languages of all mankind — from the lowest gutters of the savage, all the way up to the choicest English of a Chesterfieldian. Or

suppose I know all the choicest words that might be used by a scholar in London or Paris. Then suppose I can stop the arch-angel in his flight and converse with him. Suppose I am able to think thoughts through to Michael, and that Michael can think thoughts back to me. Suppose I am able to think thoughts through to Gabriel, and Gabriel can think thoughts back to me. Suppose I am able to speak in tongues of men — all men — and the tongues of angels, yet have not love, I am nothing.

He said, "Though I have the gift of prophecy." Wouldn't you like to prophesy like Isaiah and the prophets of old? Wouldn't it be wonderful if we had that gift of prophecy today — that we could speak prophetically like the men of God of old?

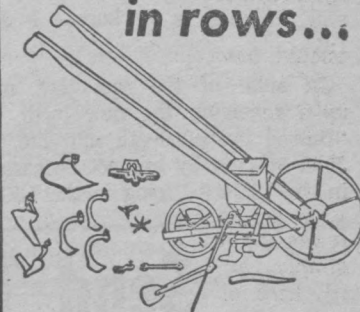
Suppose that God has put a hot coal from off the altar upon my tongue like he did Isaiah, or suppose my heart were hot as the heart of Jeremiah. Suppose that I were like John on the Isle of Patmos, that I could seemingly take hold of a curtain and pull it back to reveal to you all the unknown events of the future. Would not it be wonderful? But if I could do that, if I could cause all of these things to pass in one grand panorama before you, and I didn't do it with love, it would amount to nothing.

He goes further and says, "And understanding all mysteries."

There are many mysteries in life that I just don't understand. Do you understand astronomy? Do you understand anything about the stars, except that they are up there in the sky? I dare say that there isn't ten percent of this audience that could pick out a half dozen stars and name them by name, even including the dipper. But suppose you were able to understand astronomy, how rich your life would be. How many times in life I have wished that I might be able to study astronomy, that I might own a telescope powerful enough that I might sit and focus it upon the

(Continued on page 7, column 1)

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
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PAGE FIVE

Indisputable Sovereignty Of An Omnipotent God

CALLED

To designate or characterize as, to affirm to be (Webster).

CALLING

Divine summons, state of being divinely called; call (Webster).

Rom. 1:6: "Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ" (verses 5, 7).

Rom. 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (verse 30).

I Cor. 1:24: "But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God" (verses 9, 20, 27; Col. 3:15).

I Tim. 6:12: "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called . . ."

Gal. 1:15, 16: "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me . . ." (Not until it pleases God are any awakened and saved—Acts 13:2).

I Peter 5:10: "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Jesus Christ, . . ."

Acts 2:39: "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

I Thess. 2:12: "That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory" (Chapter 4:7).

Heb. 9:15: ". . . they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance" (Rev. 17:14; Jude 1; II Peter 1:3; I Peter 1:15; Gal. 1:6; I Cor. 1:26).

II Tim. 1:9: "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN."

Eph. 4:4: "There is one body, and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling" (verse 1).

II Thess. 1:11: "Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, . . ." (Heb. 3:1; Eph. 1:18).

Darkness . . . Light

(Continued from page one)
church is said to be a Body of Christ, it is therefore a Shrine of God. That is, the habitation of the Holy Spirit; and it is there men walk in the Light. All others are still walking in darkness. I John 1:6.

In spite of the fact that men, upon receiving the new birth, are "passed out of death into life," (I John 3:14), they are not necessarily in the LIGHT. Being in the LIGHT

necessitates a walking in light. I John 1:7; I Thess. 5:1-10. This surely means that they can be classified as "children of the day."

While it is true that all of God's children have been "Delivered from the power (authority) of darkness," in the sense of a new relationship, it cannot be said that all have been, "Translated into the Kingdom of His dear Son."

They are in the Kingdom as sons, but not sharers in the Kingdom of His Son. That relationship, or position, is peculiar to those who walk

in the light as faithful "commandment keepers." Let us take a look at some passages of Scripture which proves the validity of these statements. John 13:34, 14:15-16, 21, 23-24; John 15:4-14.

The above Scripture references not only speak of commandment keeping, but speak also of "abiding" or remaining in Him (Christ), and we are certain that the Scripture does not teach that "commandment keeping" is necessary to becoming a child of God; neither is it necessary to remaining as a child of God. So, we are bound to say that these Scriptures have reference to a relationship which leads to associating oneself in a partnership with Him, with a view to rulership with Him. Rom. 8:16-17.

The above Scriptures teach that all God's children are heirs of God, and as such, they shall live with Him. But they teach far more than a mere existence with Him; they make it clear that, "If they suffer with Him (His Christ) they shall reign with Him." (A co-reigning, a joint-account). This co-reigning can mean only one thing—i.e., they must be walking with Him now. And to walk with Him means walking in light. I John 1:5-7. He was the light of the world while He walked among men, and His church, which is His Body and His representative, is now the only light the world has.

Where the church goes the people are blessed; and when the church withdraws, the people walk in darkness. Note: When we speak of "The Church," we must always bear in mind that the Lord recognizes none but those who are patterned after that one which He left in Jerusalem. They are those who bear the True Light before the world. Faithful individuals are the lights which adorn the Candlestick—the church, Rev. 1:13-20, and the risen Lord walks among them. Are you a child of God? Are you walking in the light? If you aren't walking in a Bible-believing, Bible-centered, faithful church, you are still walking in darkness, even though you have been "Delivered from the authority of darkness." The joy of knowing that one is walking in the light of a God-honoring, Christ-pleasing New Testament Assembly is worth all the hardships and degradation the religious and the God-dishonoring world may bring upon him. To have the assurance of His good pleasure for time and eternity is the ultimate glory of those who are found faithful to the end.

May the Spirit so impress you, if you have had the experience of a Spiritual birth.

"Lay not up treasures upon earth where moth and rust do corrupt."

"He that will lose his life will save it."



Joseph Wilson

(Continued from page one)

bench. Now the N.T. fulfillment of the altar is the cross of Christ. It is true that God meets us when we are enabled to trust Jesus Christ, and what He did for our salvation. That is what is pictured in the O. T. by the sinner bringing his animal to be sacrificed, and laying his hands upon the sacrifice. So we could be said to "come to the altar" when we trust Jesus Christ for salvation, and when we depend upon Him and His death and resurrection. But that is a far different thing from coming to the mourner's bench.

Mr. Sutton says:

"David was saved at the altar and he was a mourner . . . Every man, woman, or child, who has been saved was a mourner."

He uses Scriptures as Psa. 34:118; 116:3,4; Matt. 5:4 to try and prove his ridiculous, heretical, and un-Scriptural statements. These verses refer to those who are saved, and to the fact that every saved person has times of trouble, and mourning over trouble, and that God is pleased to

hear His children pray, and deliver them from their troubles. These Scriptures do teach that the Holy Spirit, in giving Spiritual life, causes the sinner to realize his sins, and to repent of his sins, and to mourn over his sins. Every saved person is sorry that he has sinned against God, and trusts Jesus Christ for forgiveness of those sins: Even saved people, who have been saved a long time still cry out, "O wretched man that I am," (Rom. 7:24), even as Paul did. But this Spirit-wrought life that hates sin, and repents of sin and mourns over sin, is a far different thing from going to the mourner's bench, and begging God to save you.

"God heareth not sinners" John 9:31.

Mr. Sutton mentions this verse, and says:

"If God will not hear a sinner pray, then all men are lost."

Well, then all men are lost. For, not only in this verse, but in many places in the Bible, we are taught this truth. The prayer of the wicked is an abomination to God. Prayer is the PECULIAR and EXCLUSIVE privilege of the child of God. Mr. Sutton is taking a blood-bought privilege of God's children and giving it to those who despise Christ and trample on His blood. Not true, beloved, not true. Thank God, Mr. Sutton is wrong here. God will not hear a sinner prayer. But He still saves His elect through God-given repentance and faith.

Mr. Sutton says:

"If we are not saved at prayer, surely we know that a hand-shake or baptism will do no good."

Well, we surely know that, don't we? Whoever among sound Baptists thought they would do any good. And neither will prayer do any good as to the salvation of the one praying.

Mr. Sutton says:

"It is not the mourner's bench that people object to, but the mourner."

Now this is absolutely not true. I challenge Mr. Sutton to find a man who is against men mourning over sin. We delight to see the evidence of the Holy Spirit working and causing men to be sorry about sin and causing men to trust Jesus Christ as Saviour. We do not object to Spirit-wrought mourning, but we do object to erecting an unscriptural idol god called the mourner's bench, and leading multiplied thousands to trust in an emotional experience they had at this bench, and these thousands going to Hell because they have not trusted in Jesus Christ. The mourner's bench is an idol god. It deceives thousands. It is a blind object

set forth by blind men, and the blind stumble over it into Hell.

Mr. Sutton says:

"Every true church will provide such a place where sinners can come and die to sin and be born again, and not a place for a preacher to deceive them by reading or talking them up."

Not so, not so. True churches will be against this idol of Satan. See how Mr. Sutton has belittled the Bible way of bringing men to salvation, and exalted the invention of men. We are to read the Bible to the lost. We are to talk to them. We are to tell them the gospel of Jesus Christ—how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures and how He rose again. We are to talk to them of the truth of God's Word as to their sins and its punishment, and salvation through Christ. This is the Bible way. The Bible tells us: "The gospel is the power of God unto salvation" Rom. 1:16—the gospel, not the mourner's bench. The Bible tells us, "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." I Cor. 1:21. Not by the mourner's bench, but by preaching—by reading and talking the gospel to sinners. Paul says, "I have begotten you through the gospel." I Cor. 4:15. Not by the mourner's bench, but through the gospel—by reading, and preaching, and talking the gospel. So instead of what Mr. Sutton says at the first of this paragraph, let us say that every true church should not have the idol god of the mourner's bench, but should have its pastors, yea, and all its members to read and talk the gospel to lost sinners around them. Oh, in this statement by Mr. Sutton, we can see the awful and damnable character of the mourner's bench. It is substituting the invention of human wisdom for the method revealed in the Word of God.

Mr. Sutton says:

"The Bible has not changed . . . Salvation has not changed. It is still by grace. Eph. 2:8."

What words of truth from the lips of a heretic! He is so true here. Yes, salvation is still by grace, therefore it is not by the mourner's bench.

He says:

"In years past, all Baptist churches used the altar or mourner's bench, but we are now living in an age when aliens and strangers have taken our churches . . . They are being lost to people who, I am afraid, are not God-called preachers. They are discarding the altar or mourner's bench and replacing it with strange doctrines." (Continued on page 8, column 1)

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"Necessary Things"

(Continued from page 5)

stars, and drink in the meaning of the stars, and the moon, and the sun, and the constellations that are out there in God's space.

Suppose I knew something about geology — the study of rocks and the earth. Suppose I could look down into the earth, and I could tell you about all the rocks that are within. Suppose I knew all about astronomy and all about geology, and suppose I knew all about biology and sociology, and about all the "ologies" of this world, if I didn't have love, what would it amount to?

Suppose I have the ability to locate a gold mine, or a silver mine, or an oil well, or a gas well, so that there would never be a failure. Suppose I understood eclipses. Suppose I understood all about cyclones and tornados and earthquakes. Suppose I could understand the why of the problems that you and I have here within this world. Jesus said:

"What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter."—John 13:7.

We don't know what is taking place now, for these mysteries are beyond our comprehension. But suppose I could understand them all. Suppose I had this knowledge Paul talks about. Suppose I had all knowledge so far as languages and history and science is concerned. Suppose I were a walking encyclopedia, and if you wanted to know anything, you would ask me instead of going to a library. That is what Paul says, "Suppose I had all knowledge, but I didn't have love, then I am nothing."

He said, "If I had all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing."

Suppose I could pick up the Appalachians and pile them over on the Rockies, or vice versa. Or suppose I could pick up the Alps and pile them on the Pyrenees. Suppose I could do all this, and have not love, I am nothing.

He goes further and says, "Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor."

Carnegie endowed libraries all over America with his money. Rockefeller gave over \$35 million to one institution and he gave an aggregate of over \$100 million to various institutions. Suppose that I were to give all that I owned or might ever have, to feed the poor, if I have not love, I am nothing.

Then he said, "Though I give my body to be burned."

Suppose I give my body to be burned, maybe as an act of patriotism, yet I did not manifest the love of God in my life, what I have done would be nothing. I come back, to make it practical, and say, to do all this, and then be an old sourpuss, I am nothing.

VI

WITHOUT CHASTISEMENT, YE ARE NOT SONS.

We read:

"But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons."—Heb. 12:8.

In other words, if you are a professing Christian, and you sin and God doesn't whip you, it just proves that you are a spiritual illegitimate — a spiritual bastard. You have never been born of God. As a Christian, when you sin, God chastens you. If you be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers — for all Christians are partakers — then you are bastards and not sons. Beloved, without chastisement, you are not a son of God.

The Holy Rollers put themselves in an awkward place, for they say they live above sin. But if God does not whip them, then that proves that they have never been born of the Son of God.

You say, "Brother Gilpin, do you like to be whipped?" Do you know any other foolish questions? How many times have you school teachers used the "board of education" on some wayward child to discipline that one? Did he turn around and say, "Please do that over again!" How many times did you as a child, when your mother or daddy got after you with a switch, say, "Please whip me again?" We just don't do that. But you and I ought never to complain at the whippings of God, for it just proves that we are God's children. The greatest proof in the world that you belong to God is that God chastens you.

I say, then, beloved, without chastisement, you are not sons.

VII

"WITHOUT ME, YE CAN DO NOTHING."

The Lord Jesus Christ makes this very solemn statement when He said:

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."—John 15:5.

You can't do anything without the Lord. You may go through the act and you may go through the motion, but you can't do anything without the Lord. Whether you teach Sunday School, or sing, or preach, without the Lord, we can do nothing. We may go through the motion, but it doesn't amount to anything without the Lord.

One fellow said of me years ago, "Brother Gilpin can draw more people to church than any man that ever stood in shoe leather. We ought to say that Bro. Gilpin has more saving power than anybody I ever heard preach."

Beloved, he was entirely wrong. I have no saving power. I can't draw anybody. Our Lord said,

"Without me ye can nothing." I say to you, the source of our power and strength is the Lord.

CONCLUSION

Let's sum it up. There are seven indispensable things: Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission; without faith, it is impossible to please God; without works, faith is dead; without holi-

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ness, no man shall see the Lord; without love, I am nothing; without chastisement, ye are not sons; "without me ye can do nothing."

How many things in life have you thought of as necessary? How many things have you thought were indispensable? How many things have you thought of as being entirely essential? The majority of them you can just throw away, for you don't need most of them. But these are seven indispensable, necessary, essential things so far as your life as a child of God is concerned.

May God bless you!



Dear Abby

(Continued from page one)

was impossible. Noah chose between what God wanted done and what men were doing.

Still later, a man by the name of Moses determined to follow the leading of the Lord. First, we see him "choosing to suffer affliction with the people of God, rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season in Egypt." Second, we see him face to face with Korah, a man who was rebelling against the Word of the Lord, and his company of rebellious learned men or men of renown.

As Moses faced Korah and his company, we hear Moses calling on the people to choose between service to the Lord and service to Korah. Men made their choice in that hour. It is written that there was an unusual doom for those who chose to follow Korah, rather than the Lord. "The earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up together with Korah..."

Multitudes of people today apparently feel that God is off on a distant journey, and that He has no interest in their choice to follow the way of sin. But men will learn, to their sorrow, that God is yet the "Judge of all the earth," and One who "Judges in righteousness."

In every period of human history, men have had to make a choice between conforming to God's Word and doing His will, or following the dictates of their human desires and their seared consciences. If we know the Word of God, we must remember that choices to worship and serve the Lord were made by Joshua, Gideon, David, Daniel, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Zechariah, and a host of other Old Testament saints.

When Jesus walked the earth, men had to choose continually between the Sinless Saviour and the fleshly appeals of Satan. At one moment in time, Satan even attempted to expose Jesus to such choices. The Lord came through the trial unscathed and untouched. At each of Satan's offers, Jesus referred him to the Word of God.

Even in this late hour of human history, men must still make such choices. One of those choices today must be between Christ Jesus and

Dear Abby.

In a recent column headlined by the caption, "Desire for Another Not Considered Sin," the following question from "Attracted" was posed for Dear Abby:

"I don't know if you have come across a problem like this, but here goes: Is it a sin for a Catholic to have a strong desire for a priest? I must know if I have to confess my feelings to a priest in the confessional before I am able to take Communion again."

For anyone who truly knows the Lord in saving faith and one who is informed in the truths of God's Word, there could be involvement in a lengthy dissertation regarding man's relationship with God, and that there is but "One Mediator between God and man," even Jesus. A Scripturally informed person could expound almost endlessly that the Confessional is not of the Lord.

In the program of God, Jesus, alone, is the "One Mediator between God and man."

In her rather piteous approach, however, Dear Abby does not become involved in the implications of the questions, though she makes a definitive theological pronouncement. It is tragically sad, of course, that multitudes will await the words of counsel of Abigail Van Buren, as though she were some sort of an authority on a multitude of subjects. In truth, she but makes illicit conversation which appeals generally to the prurient interest of man's sinful nature.

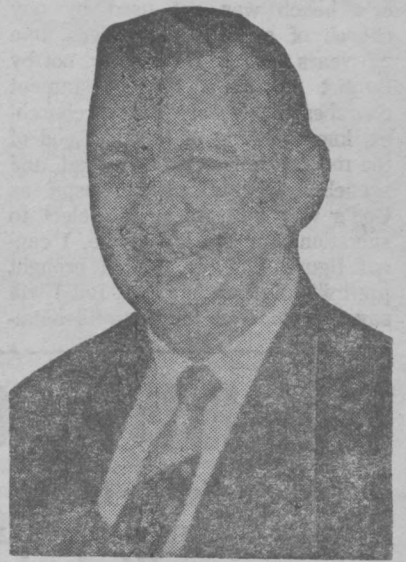
Her appeal to the flesh is certainly obvious in most every instance. In her response to this question, the appeal to the flesh is very clear. Even more, it is contrary to the specific, literal teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. Dear Abby replies to "Dear Attracted" thus:

"It is not a sin for any person to have a strong desire for a person of the opposite sex. God made us, man and woman, as we are. To be attracted to another person who cannot, because of marriage or ordination vows respond is not a sin. But to act upon it, with deliberate intention of making another violate his (or her) vow of celibacy or marriage is a sin."

Abigail Van Buren has made her point rather clearly.

We never want to forget that God is quite explicit and definitive regarding adultery — that is, sexual infidelity across marriage lines; and fornication — that is, illicit sexual indulgence by the unmarried. God, in instituting marriage, brought Adam and Eve together and de-

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clared, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall be one flesh." For those who would violate this order, He gave His command, "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

Several centuries after Moses gave the Commandment, Jesus followed to walk in the midst of men and confirm the Commandment Moses had gotten from God in the mountain. Jesus elaborated on the Commandment thus:

"You have heard it said by them of old, you shall not commit adultery. But I say to you that whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart."

Dear Abby, Abigail Van Buren. (Continued on page 8, column 5)

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Joseph Wilson

(Continued from page 6)
trines, such as decisionism and pre-millennialism."

This simply is not true. The mourner's bench was not used by any church of any kind until less than 200 years ago. And, certainly, not by Baptist churches. New Testament churches which were Baptist churches, knew nothing of this idol god of the mourner's bench. They read, and preached, and talked the gospel as God's way of bringing His elect to salvation. For the life of me, I cannot figure why Mr. Sutton brought pre-millennialism into this. But I will say, praise God for pre-millennial-

ism. It is a warm, wonderful and glorious truth. And after men are saved by the Spirit using the gospel—not by the mourner's bench—they should soon be taught the glorious truth of the premillennial return of Jesus Christ, and taught to look for His coming.

Mr. Sutton says in closing that true Baptists should follow Joab's example and die at the altar. Well, true Baptists will not do that, for they have trusted, not in an altar, but in Jesus Christ who died for them and rose again. But I will say that multiplied thousands of deceived souls—deceived by such preachers as Mr. Sutton—have followed Jo-

ab's example, and have died and gone to Hell trusting in the mourner's bench.

I said at the start that the article I am reviewing was written on Faith Missionary Baptist Church stationery. I suggest that this church drop the name faith, for they believe in a mourner's bench instead of "saved by grace through faith." They should drop the name missionary, because they believe in the mourner's bench instead of talking, reading, and preaching the gospel to the lost. They should drop the name Baptist because they believe in the mourner's bench instead of Bible and Baptist truth of how men are saved. They should drop the name church, for it looks like they are only a society of men rather than a true church of Jesus Christ. May it please the Lord to teach even this man and this organization His truth. May the Lord bless you all.

Second Coming

(Continued from page one)

great, rich and poor, free and bond, slaved, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name"—Rev. 13:15-17.

It becomes very obvious that the tribulation will be a time when Satan will vent his dreadful wrath upon Israel. It will also be a time when God shall pour His terrible wrath as is shown by the following Scriptures:

"Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate, and He shall destroy the sinners out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity: and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible"—Isaiah 13:9-11.

Our Father is going to send dreadful plagues upon this earth. The result being that the population of the earth will be greatly reduced. The population, in fact, under the fourth seal (Rev. 6:7,8), will be reduced by about one-fourth. This reduction, on the basis of our present population, will mean that about seven hundred and fifty million people will die. The judgment of the sixth trumpet (Rev. 9:13-21) will destroy one-third of those who will escape the earlier plagues.

Immediately after the tribulation begins, Russia and many nations with her will come down against Israel. They, however, are to be soundly defeated because of the intervention of the Almighty Himself. He, in fact, will cause hail, fire and brimstone to fall upon those who will attack Israel.

I place this battle at the beginning of the tribulation rather than before it, because of the fact that God will fight for Israel as He did in His dealings with them during the sixty-nine weeks that are already past. It stands to reason that this battle will occur during Daniel's seventeenth week. Furthermore, if we contend that this battle must occur before the tribulation, then we will be looking for the battle rather than the return of our Lord.

There are actually three more great battles which are to be fought. The first of these battles is described in Ezekiel thirty-eight and thirty-nine. This first end-time battle will involve the invasion of Palestine by a group of nations from the north. The second end-time battle will involve all nations—nations who will gather specifically against Jerusalem. The battle will be called Armageddon. The third and last battle is described in Revelation 20:7-10. This battle is to occur at the end of the mil-

lennium when Satan is released for a short season.

We know from the following Scriptures that there is to be an invasion of Palestine in the "latter days."

"Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, thus saith the Lord God; in that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it? And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north part, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army: and thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I WILL BRING THEE against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O God, before their eyes . . . And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, and overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the Lord"—Ezekiel 38:14-16,22,23.

The invasion of Palestine, according to the above verses is to come from the north of Palestine, during a time when Israel is dwelling safely. A world map will show that Russia is the farthest north from Palestine. Russia, however, will not be alone when she comes against God's Israel. She, according to Ezekiel 38:15, will have "many peoples" with her.

We are all aware of the fact that Russia is deeply involved in the middle-East at the present time. She, in fact, supplied most of the brain power and war materials of the war that is now smoldering. I, in fact, have read that Soviet advisory officers have penetrated the entire Egyptian army, even down to the battalion level. This is the price Egypt was required to pay for the large arms shipment from Russia. Russia, in fact, is in Egypt as we were in Vietnam; that is, we supplied the money, materials and many men. We may safely say, then, that the invasion of Palestine will be Russia's war, even though many other nations will come with her.

"And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts . . ."—Ezek. 38:15.

North, in the Bible, means north of Palestine. Palestine, in fact, in the Scriptures, is the center of the earth. The Mediterranean which borders Palestine, means "middle of the earth."

The names of the countries that will attack Israel are given in the following verses:

"And the Word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: and I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them

with shield and helmet: Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands; and many people with thee"—Ezekiel 38:1-6.

Gog, in verse two (above), is the symbolic name of the man who will be commander of the northern confederacy of nations. "Magog" is the symbolic name of God's people and the land over which God shall rule. The new Schaff Herzog Encyclopedia of religious knowledge says regarding "Magog":

"A stricter geographical location would place Magog's dwelling between Armenia and Media, perhaps on the shores of the Araxes. But the people seem to have extended farther north across the Caucasus, filling there the extreme northern horizon of the Hebrews." (To be continued next week)

Dear Abby

(Continued from page seven)

whose authority is the editorial aegis of a syndicated column, may assume before her doting public, and a lost and dying world of Scripturally ignorant masses, "It is not a sin for any person to have a strong desire for a person of the opposite sex." The Lord Jesus Christ, however, finally and forever declares, "I say to you, that whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart." The same truth is applicable to women, also, as indicated in Jesus' dealing with a woman at the well and other women elsewhere.

Jesus, the Christ, verily God the Son, makes it clear that both adultery and fornication are sins in the sight of Almighty God. His words are plain, "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, and blasphemies." Jesus further specifies, "Thou shalt do no murder; thou shalt not commit adultery; thou shalt not steal."

It is definite! We have a choice! We can choose to believe the Satanic, evil lie of Abigail Van Buren of "Dear Abby" fame. Or, we can choose to believe the words of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The choice is ours! It lies before us.

If Dear Abby, with her contention, "It is not a sin for any person to have a strong desire for a person of the opposite sex," speaks the truth, then Jesus Christ lied when He said, "But I say to you that whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her in his heart." However, if Jesus, the Christ, spoke infallible and incontrovertible truth when He said, "But I say to you that whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart," then Dear Abby lied when she said, "It is not a sin for any person to have a strong desire for a person of the opposite sex."

Dear Abby proves herself to be an enemy of the Lord. As an enemy of the Lord speaking lies before the people, she is also an enemy of the souls and lives of men (and women).

The choice is before us! It is Christ Jesus or Dear Abby. As for me and my house we shall choose the Lord and His Holy Word. Others may, if they wish, choose Dear Abby and foolishly "fall for" the Satanic lies which seem to drip interminably from her pen.

THANKFUL FOR TBE . . .

We wish to thank you for the paper (The Baptist Examiner) you have sent to us these many years. We had never heard of predestination nor election until Brother Bill Lowe and his mother, Mrs. Beulah Lowe, had your paper sent to us. These were stronger doctrines to us. But, the more I studied, the more I realized the truth of them.

We attended the Bible Conference in Tulsa with Brother Lowe and family. How it thrilled our hearts to hear the whole Word of God preached! How we thank Him for preachers like you and the others at the conference! We are sending a small offering to use where needed in your wonderful work.

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