

# This Baptist Faith Missions Man Wants Us To Do The Impossible!

Just before Thanksgiving, 1973, John Hatcher who was (mis)representing the so-called Baptist Faith Mission Board, in speaking at the Lexington Bible College used some sarcastic remarks concerning TBE and its editor.

I do not know Brother Hatcher personally. I would judge in all probability that he is a very fine gentleman, even though he is ignorantly saying, and doing things he should not. On this particular occasion, he spoke twice in the school, supposedly conducting a chapel service, but instead, he actually attempted to sell Baptist Faith Missions to the students which was one of the biggest mistakes that he ever made in his life. If he knew the reaction that came as a result thereof, he would

be mighty cautious of ever conducting the same again. I can't involve, nor do I want to involve, any of the students, but I will say frankly that Baptist Faith Missions lost more ground through those two supposedly so-called chapel programs than by any other similar experience.

Again, I don't want to involve any of the faculty, but I will say that Baptist Faith Missions surely dropped lower than the stock market on its darkest day with some of the faculty members.

I said in the first paragraph, that Baptist Faith Missions was supposedly a mission board. As such, it is the biggest misnomer of the present century. It is not Baptist. Neither the directors nor the missionaries operate by faith.

They do not do Scriptural mission work. Talk about "money down the drain" — there never was any organization that wasted more of the money of God's people and God's churches than has this so-called mission board headed by the Big "O" in Detroit.

Just remember that in the last 25 years, over 50 per cent of their missionaries did not last three years in the field. Including all union and interdenominational mission boards, as well as the Northern and Southern Baptist Conventions, Baptist Faith Missions has the highest mortality rate of all missionary boards.

Brother Hatcher told the students that if they were looking for a mission board in the Bible that they would find it in the book

of Corinthians. Let me suggest that they all get new glasses and that they likewise hire Sherlock Holmes to do a little sleuthing. When they have finished, they still will not have found a mission board. I will give them a mighty good contribution if they will give me one Scripture in Corinthians that an unbiased judge and jury would accept as a mission board. Remember — just ONE.

In the course of his remarks, after citing Corinthians to prove the existence of a mission board, he then said, "Let Gilpin smoke that in his pipe." Brother Gilpin would like to remind Brother Hatcher that he does not smoke, but that if he did, it would be an impossibility to get anything to burn that is as soggy as his far-fetched

suggestion that any portion of I and II Corinthians speaks about a mission board.

Someday, God's people will find out the whole story of Baptist Faith Missions, and what a sorry story it will be!

If we cared to do so, we might tell you how that two of the missionaries sent out by Baptist Faith Missions had an actual fist fight in Brazil. Of course, you never read of it in their reports. Everything sounds like "peaches and cream" to read the edited and lying remarks of their reports, yet we can show you many, many instances of that which has happened which they have never printed, and never will!

We suggest to Brother Hatcher that he "smoke this in his pipe."

## THE AUTHORITY FOR MISSIONS RESTS IN JESUS' CHURCHES

PASTOR DON PREWITT  
Bryantville, Kentucky

Read Luke 24:46-53.

Let us note in our text that the preaching and teaching of God's Word was to go out from Jerusalem. We see a prophecy in Isaiah 2:3 which says that the Word of the Lord shall go forth from Jerusalem. Read Luke 6:12-13. In verse 13, "And when it was day He called unto Him His disciples: And of them he chose twelve whom also He named Apostles."

I believe this to be His church, which He organized from the material John the Baptist had gathered. The Apostles were chosen out of His church and ordained by church authority. He organized His church



ELD. DON PREWITT

at Jerusalem so our text says "beginning at Jerusalem."

I

Begin to worship Him (v. 53). Read Luke 24:52-53. In 52, "And they worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy."

Verse 53 says: "And were continually in the Temple praising and blessing God." God has an ordained place for his people to worship Him.

In Eph. 1:3, we read, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in Heavenly places in Christ."

The only Heavenly places on earth that can provide God's people with all spiritual blessings is a New Testament Missionary Baptist Church. Jesus said the true worshipper shall worship the Father in spirit and truth. The Lord gave the truth — the whole body of truth to His Church. See Jude 3. He baptized His church and empowered it with the Holy Spirit so the true Baptist Churches have the spirit and truth, to worship and praise the crucified, risen, ascended and coming Lord.

II

To wait on Him. V. 49 says, "And behold I send the promise of my" (Continued on page 8, column 4)

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## 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 SECURITY OF THE SAVED

BILL BURKE, JR.  
Lexington, Ky. 40505

Webster says of Perseverance: "To persist (as in an undertaking) in spite (emphasis mine) of difficulties." Of Preservation he says: "To keep safe, guard, protect..."

My text is found in Galatians 5:4: "... Ye are fallen from Grace." I have deliberately departed from the commonly accepted texts that infallibly teach this great truth of eternal security, because Galatians 5:4 is a favorite proof text (when removed from its context) of the enemies of Grace, when they teach their heresy of final apostasy. They teach that, in spite of the Lord Jesus bearing the sins of many on the cross, where He was their substitute, and that, in spite of the Holy Spirit effectually working faith and repentance in the Lord Jesus, some will finally fall away, and be eternally lost and spend an eternity in the Gehenna (hell proper, the lake of fire). They tell us of man's own strength.

My reason also for using this text is that there appeared in a weekly religious publication (date and name of publication available upon request) a cartoon featuring a gentleman named "Theophilus." He was pictured as having a closed Bible in his hand, and there was another character approaching Theophilus and saying, "I have signed this proposition: 'A Christian cannot fall from grace and be lost.'" Theophilus answers

thusly: "I accept; the inspired Apostle Paul says in Gal. 5:4 to some of those Christians 'Ye are

"We Are With You 100%"

It would be an impossibility for us to say exactly how many people have used this expression concerning the doctrinal stand of The Baptist Examiner since the first of February. It has been used so often that we more or less anticipate it in virtually every letter we receive.

Thank you, beloved, for your confidence and for the fact that you believe we are standing for the Word of God. It is an encouragement, inspiration, and general help to us to know you feel thus about our ministry.

Especially is this appreciated in view of the illness of Bro. Gilpin. We thank God that his eyes are slowly improving, and look forward to the time when he is fully recovered.

Don't forget us when you pray. If God so leads you, send an offering for the ongoing and continuance of this great paper.

fallen from grace.' " The cartoon ends with the challenger tearing his proposition to bits and saying, "On second thought, I believe debates do more harm than good." End cartoon.

Plenteous are the Scriptures to establish, beyond doubt, the great truth of eternal security, such as John 6:37-40, 47; John 10:27-30; Romans 8:29-39, and countless others in both the Old and New Testaments, which space will not allow me to cite. Remember, truth need only be mentioned once in the Holy Scripture to be infallible. This great truth of Perseverance can be found on almost every page of the Holy Word.

Now I take the position of the character in the cartoon: To wit, A saved person cannot fall from grace and be finally lost. And since Theophilus had a closed Bible in his hand, He evidently did not read the verses above and certainly did not comment on the entire verse.

Let us open our Bibles and read the entire verse: "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from Grace" (Gal. 5:4). Now the preceding chapters of Galatians and the first three verses of this chapter, along with perhaps half the book of Romans, teach the impossibility of one being justified by the deeds of the Law (works). See Romans 3:28; 4:2-4; 11:1-7; etc. Along with these passages in Galatians, Ch. 2:16, 21; ch. 3:6, 7, 8, (Continued on page 8, column 2)

## REVIEW OF AN ENDORSEMENT OF INFIDEL LECTURER

JOSEPH M. WILSON  
Gladwin, Michigan

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravaging wolves." Matt. 7:15

What a verse is this! What a warning it contains! It tells us that men, who inwardly are vile, wicked haters of God, will put on an outward covering — as if they were sheep—pretending to be what they are not—and will come among us with their preaching. We are not to be surprised when men, who call themselves preachers, turn out to be ministers of Satan and disciples of Hell. This is just another evidence of the truthfulness of the Bible. Is it not a glorious evidence of Divine



JOE WILSON

Sovereignty, when men who hate the Book and preach against it, prove by this very thing that the Bible is inspired? Oh our wonderful God who can make even the wrath of man to praise Him!

I have before me a Feb. 18, 1972 copy of the Western Recorder: an official Southern Baptist Convention paper. I am looking at an article which is headed "GREATEST LIVING PREACHER" TO BE LECTURER AT SOUTHERN SEMINARY. I read on in the article to find out the name of this great preacher. It is not John R. Gilpin, who is certainly one of the greatest living preachers—who has done more under God for Bible and Baptist Truth than any man in our generation. It is not Wayne Cox, who is certainly one of the greatest living preachers—who has thrilled many of us again and again with his powerful presentation of God's Word. It is not Fred Halliman, who is certainly one of the greatest living preachers, who is beyond doubt the greatest living missionary. Who is it that this SBC article says many call the greatest living preacher? Better sit down. This is going to shock you. The preacher referred to in this SBC article is the noted and infamous infidel, (Continued on page 7, column 3)

## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor John R. Gilpin

## "THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS"

(PREACHED AT 1961 BIBLE CONFERENCE IN ASHLAND, KENTUCKY)

"Even so, come, Lord Jesus"—Rev. 22:20.

In Leviticus 16 we have the events of the great day of atonement recorded for us. I am sure that practically every preacher in this congregation has sometime or other used this chapter, the great day of atonement, in order to preach on the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ at Calvary. However, there is more than the first advent in store for us in Leviticus 16.

If you will go back, and read carefully in the Word of God, you

will find the clothing that Aaron wore was spoken of as clothes or "garments for glory and beauty." (Exodus 28:2). You and I have never seen a preacher dressed in garments of glory and beauty the equal of the garments of Brother Aaron, but on that day of atonement Aaron laid aside his garments of glory and beauty. In the early part of the day, he clothed himself in white linen clothes — spotlessly white linen coat and breeches. He did his work as a priest. One goat was killed, typify-

ing the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ. The other was sent out into the wilderness at the hands of a fit man, in order to typify the fact that our sins are carried away.

Thank God, beloved, the day a man sees the truth that Jesus Christ has died for his sins, those sins are completely carried away. All the Arminians in the world can't bring them back and put them on us.

After the fit man returned from his journey in the wilderness to (Continued on page 2, column 2)



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JOHN R. GILPIN Editor

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## An Appreciated Letter As To Our Stand For Truth

Dear Brother Gilpin:

Dear Brother, it gives me great joy to give you the following news. At a recent meeting, our church, the Grace Baptist Church of Gladwin, Michigan, voted to double its monthly support of The Baptist Examiner. The men of the church all agree that this is only a temporary increase, for we shortly intend to raise our support even more than this. Pray for us, my brother, that God will increase our income, and be assured that, if and when He does, TBE shall receive a share of the increase.

We are so very happy that we can do this much, and only sorry that it cannot, at this time, be much more.

As you know, Brother Gilpin, I feel that my ministry today is due to what God has done for me through you and TBE. I know He could have done it another way. I am not giving you a credit that belongs to God. But I will not rob you and TBE of your due either. God has made my ministry what it now is through you and TBE.

Brother Gilpin, our church believes and knows that it is in existence today because of what God has done through The Baptist Examiner. Again, God could have done it another way. But He chose to do it through TBE. This church is here because these people learned much truth through the pages of TBE. Because they were grounded and strengthened in these truths by TBE. Because they were so strengthened by this great paper, they would not give in when their pastor turned from the truths he once taught, and fought them and fought TBE. He once said it was the greatest paper that came to his desk. He later fought it with all his might. TBE did not change. So it is evident that this pastor did change. But these people who make up Grace Baptist Church today would not change. When the pastor fought them viciously, when the church(?) turned on them, they remained true to God and true to the truths of God's Word. And much of this is due to strength received from The Baptist Examiner. So this people feel they owe their existence, to God's work through TBE, and they are grateful to be able to increase their support, and they pray that very soon they can give more. We know that you have taken a recent stand that will cost TBE. We are behind you. We thank God for your courage, and your loyalty to the truth. We pray that God will lead many more churches to greatly increase

their support of this greatest of papers. May God bless you, improve your health, and use you and use TBE even more greatly to His glory.

—Joseph M. Wilson,  
Grace Baptist Church,  
Gladwin, Michigan.

## "Second Coming"

(Continued from page one)

tell how he had seen that scape-goat gamboling out of sight, going over the horizon, carrying the sins of Israel away for another twelve months' time, Aaron took off his white linen clothes. He laid aside these clothes that he had been wearing only on that particular day and put back upon himself his robes of beauty and glory as described in Exodus 28:2. He then went out, and appeared before the waiting congregation.

Beloved, my Jesus came to this world and laid aside His glory of Heaven. I recognize the fact that He was still God when He came to earth, but He was likewise a man as well. I am sure that those angels must have looked in wonder and amazement at Him, on the day that He unloosed His golden sandals and announced to them, "I do not disdain the womb of a virgin." On that day that He came down to this world, the glory that He had had throughout all the ages was laid aside.

You say He was still God? Yes, but you don't see much of God in that stable, as He was cradled in the manger, and as He with His foster father and His mother were there within that barn. You don't see much of the glory of God, as He lived among Jewish peasants in those early days of His earthly ministry.

One day, some thirty years later, the Lord Jesus Christ finished His earthly ministry within this world and went back to the Father to "change His clothes." The last time He was seen within this world the disciples looked at Him on the Mount of Olivet. As He began to lift Himself up, they saw Him as He went into the skies dressed in the robes of humanity, just as they had known Him for thirty-three years. Beloved, as the high priest Aaron changed his garments and came forth to meet that waiting congregation, some of these days the Lord Jesus Christ is coming back — not like a man as He went away, but as a God of glory and beauty, and as He was throughout all the ages of eternity past.

Beloved, I tell you, He has to come. Believe me when I say that He must come. You can't read this Bible without the fullest realization that Jesus Christ has to come back to this world. He has gone now to "change His clothes," but He must come back.

### HE MUST COME TO FULFILL OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY.

Beloved, the Lord Jesus Christ has to come to fulfill Old Testament prophecy that never yet has been fulfilled. Listen:

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."—Genesis 3:15.

Jesus Christ is to bruise the head of the serpent. That head is the seat and source of power. The Lord Jesus Christ is to depose Satan and to reduce him to helplessness. That hasn't come to pass. That Scripture has to be fulfilled, and it wasn't fulfilled when the Son of God made His first advent.

We read:

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder"—Isaiah 9:6.

Beloved, this wasn't fulfilled at the time of His first advent. Instead of the government being upon His shoulder then, He was subject to the government, as He Himself paid tribute unto Caesar.

He said:

"Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea,

and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money; that take, and give unto them for me and thee"—Matthew 17:27.

Notice again:

"Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end"—Isaiah 9:7.

Beloved, at His first advent He did not inaugurate peace. He did not set up a reign of universal peace. He Himself said:

"Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword"—Matt. 10:34.

That time of peace that is spoken of in Isaiah 9:7 hasn't come to pass. I grant you that God's Word tells us about the time when the nations are going to beat their swords into plowshares, and are going to be molded, and remade. Listen:

"And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more"—Micah 4:3.

I grant you that there will be a time when the world is not going

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to learn war any more, but that wasn't fulfilled when Jesus came the first time. I say He has to come back, for if He doesn't, then Isaiah 9:6,7 shall remain unfulfilled, and the Scripture shall be broken.

Listen again:

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King SHALL REIGN AND PROSPER, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely; and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that they shall no more say, The Lord liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, the Lord liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own

land"—Jer. 23:5-8.

Beloved, this wasn't fulfilled when Jesus came the first time. The Jews didn't accept Him as a king. This tells us that the king shall reign and prosper, but Jesus didn't reign as a king when He came the first time. Rather, the Jews rejected Him as a king.

We read:

"But they cried out. Away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar"—John 19:15.

I tell you, beloved, these Old Testament prophecies haven't been fulfilled. The Lord Jesus Christ is waiting until He "changes His clothes," to come, and fulfill, and complete His ministry.

### JESUS MUST COME TO FULFILL HIS OWN PREDICTIONS.

Jesus said:

"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh"—Matthew 24:27,30,44.

Do you see any mourning in the world today? Do you see anybody mourning because of sin? I ask you, preacher brethren, how long has it been since in your church services you saw an individual make a profession of faith who even showed a tear within the eye? I grant you that the majority of folk who make professions of faith today come with dry eyes, and I fear many times and in many instances, with unbroken hearts.

I say, beloved, He hasn't fulfilled this Scripture. He hasn't come to reign. He'll have to come again to fulfill this Scripture.

Notice again:

"And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him"—Matthew 25:6.

Is there a man or woman who believes that the Lord Jesus Christ has already come back to this world? I ask you, did you go out to meet Him?

I recognize the fact that at every midnight hour things take place that should cause us to bow our heads in shame. Our nation spends thousands of dollars for alcoholic beverages for Khrushchev and the ambassadors of Godless nations in an effort to appease them. There is much clamor and commotion on the part of the unsaved every midnight at such gatherings. I'll grant you that many things are taking place at midnight that you and I know nothing at all about, but when that great midnight hour comes, when our Lord has changed His clothes, He is coming back to this world to receive His own.

He also said when He was here:

"When the Son of man shall

come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats"—Matthew 25:31,32.

Do you see any signs of separation? Most churches today want a pastor who is supposed to be a good mixer. Actually, beloved, what the churches need, though they don't know it, is a good separator. They need somebody who is able to separate the sheep from the goats.

Beloved, there is a day coming when there is going to be a glorious separation, when the sheep are definitely going to be separated. That hasn't taken place yet. He must come in order to fulfill His own predictions.

He likewise said:

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am there ye may be also"—John 14:1-3.

Beloved, He went away. He has to come back to fulfill this prediction.

III

### HE MUST COME TO FULFILL THE PSALMIST'S STATEMENTS.

We read:

"All the ENDS OF THE WORLD SHALL REMEMBER AND TURN unto the Lord: and all the kindreds of the NATIONS SHALL WORSHIP before thee. For the kingdom is the Lord's: and he is the governor among the nations"—Psalm 22:27,28.

I am ready to grant you that this Twenty-second Psalm, in the main, is, as you know, a photograph of our Lord's saddest and darkest hours. In the main, it is a picture that was completely fulfilled at His first advent. But, beloved, the majority of us stop with that portion of the Scripture that talks about the suffering and the sacrifice of the Son of God without realizing that the last verses tell us that the ends of the world shall remember and shall turn unto the Lord.

That didn't take place when He came the first time. He descended then into the depths of humiliation. He was born in a stable, and was cradled in a manger. The beasts of the field were His first companions when He was born into this world. He had no crib such as you put your child in at birth, but rather He had a bed of straw for a cradle. He lived as a Jewish peasant all the days of His life while He was here upon this earth. He spent His young manhood at a carpenter's bench. There was no hospitality ever shown Him, as recorded in the Word of God, other than at the home of Mary and Martha and Lazarus. Instead, He was despised, and was rejected, and was ridiculed by the Jews. The Pharisees treated Him with the utmost contempt. Life seem-

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

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## "Second Coming"

(Continued from page two)  
ingly ended in complete failure. They even treated Him as a criminal.

Beloved, I read Psalm 22:27,28 and I look at Him who seemingly ended His life in failure, who died seemingly as a criminal, and I ask this question, is this the only sight this earth is ever to have of the Lord of Glory? Oh, no, beloved, there must be a sequel. He must come back that the world may see Him in His glory. He is getting ready to come.

Notice again:

"Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven"—Matthew 26:64.

Beloved, this world is going to see a Christ of power. You can talk about your lowly Nazarene all you want to, but He is not mine.

He was a lowly Nazarene when He was here within the world in the days of His flesh, but when I look upon Him a second time, He is going to be a lordly Nazarene, I say, He has to come. He must come to fulfill the Psalmist's statements.

### IV

#### HE MUST COME TO FULFILL SCRIPTURES CONCERNING THE DESTRUCTION OF SATAN.

I am afraid we don't realize what a powerful creature and adversary we have in Satan. You'll notice I used the word "creature." I didn't say "a powerful being." He is not a being. God only is a being; Satan is a creature. Beloved, he is the most powerful creature in all the universe. Listen:

"And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night"—Rev. 12:10.

This is talking about the Devil. Notice it says that he is the accuser of the brethren. I am sure the Devil accused you last night when you were asleep, of your hypocrisy and extravagance in spending your money coming here to a Bible Conference. After you had enjoyed the services of the day, Satan was still bringing accusations against you. Beloved, up yonder in the Gloryland when Satan stood up accusing you, our Lord Jesus watched over you. Night and day for six thousand years Satan has accused the saints of God. As a prosecutor he has no equal. In all ages, from the day of Adam down to this, he has accused us. Someday he'll be destroyed. Now, though, he is a powerful creature.

Let's notice his power again:

"And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, showed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this

power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it"—Luke 4:5,6.

This tells us about the Devil taking the Lord Jesus Christ up into an high mountain and showing Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. Beloved, did you ever read this to realize that the Lord Jesus Christ never repudiated nor challenged the claim of the Devil? There was a reason: It was the truth. Beloved, Satan is giving that power to the nations of the world today. Lots of these world-wide leaders and rulers have their power today just because the Devil has made the deal with them that he proposed to the Lord Jesus Christ. Beloved, he is powerful.

Listen again:

"Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, DURST NOT BRING AGAINST HIM A RAILING ACCUSATION,

but said, The Lord rebuke thee"—Jude 1:9.

Even Michael, the archangel, didn't dare to rebuke Satan. Don't tell me that the Devil isn't a creature of power. Even Michael recognized him as such.

Notice again:

"Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the PRINCE OF THIS WORLD BE CAST OUT"—John 12:31.

Even Jesus said that he was the prince of the world, and Paul referred to him as the "god of this world."

"In whom the GOD OF THIS WORLD hath blinded the minds of them which believeth not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them"—II Cor. 4:4.

(Continued on page 5, column 2)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER  
MARCH 23, 1974  
PAGE THREE

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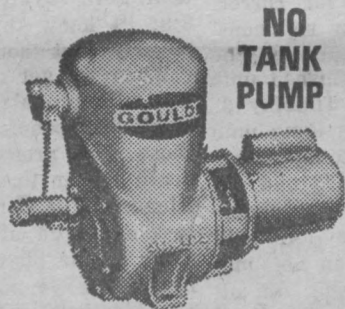
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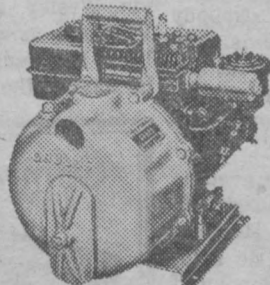
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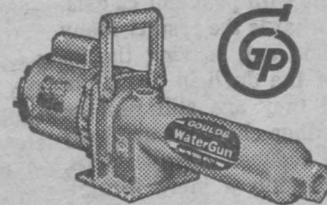


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# The Baptist Examiner

## FORUM

"Modern liberal preachers have several cliches that sound good, such as: (1) Let's have peaceful co-existence; (2) Join the church of your choice; (3) One church is just as good as another; (4) It makes no difference what one believes so long as he is sincere; (5) Compromise rather than contend. How can I answer each of these?"

ROY  
MASON  
RADIO MINISTER  
BAPTIST PREACHER  
Aripeka, Florida



Yes, liberal preachers are very often just bulging with cliches, and others hear them and go out and prattle them. Some that I have heard were actually nauseating, and I felt as if I needed some smelling salts to get me back to normal. Let's take a look at these cliches just mentioned:

(1) Let's have peaceful co-existence. Baptists in the northern part of our nation used to be strong, active, and vigorous, but modernist seminaries kept turning out liberals. These didn't believe in fighting sin and sinful institutions. They were content with peaceful co-existence, and what is the result? Many churches died out, leaving the institutions of the devil in charge of things, and they are still running unabated. Other churches are busy dying, with reduced memberships, and with worship a mere formality. Others have given place to independent Baptists who carry on more vigorously.

(2) Join the church of your choice. Oh, isn't this broad? This results in people joining on the basis of whim or notion or convenience. They visit a church and the pastor is real good looking, so they jump right in. Another person joins a certain church because it is only two blocks away. Another because they have such a "purty building." All sorts of trivial reasons dominate people of that kind.

To the contrary, one should after prayerful consideration, join the church to which they believe God leads them. They should join a Scriptural church — not a church identified with a group started by some man. The church should not be a play house, but a group seeking to carry out the terms of the Great Commission. The trouble with union revivals is that people are usually counseled to "join the church of their choice," which means the one to which careless fancy or notion may lead.

(3) One church is just as good as another. The trouble with this statement is that it is a big lie. A church started by some human leader, is NOT as good as the one started by Jesus before He went away, and kept in existence by Him all through the centuries. A church filled with worldlings that exist mainly to eat, drink, and be merry, is not as good as a church filled with consecrated, Christ-loving, gospel-spreading people. A church in a perpetual wrangle, where some of the members hate others, is not as good as a church

that is filled with loving, peaceful, devoted Christians, who seek to carry on the Lord's work, according to His will.

(4) It makes no difference what one believes just so he is perfectly sincere. Say, this one is sure a dilly! Let's test it out. Here's a fellow who goes to the medicine cabinet to take some medicine. In the gloom of the night, he takes a bottle down and fixes himself a liberal dose, and gulps it down. He drops his spoon and it goes clattering to the floor. This leads him to turn on the light, and suddenly he sees that instead of taking what he meant to take, he has swallowed down a liberal dose of deadly arsenic! At first, he is frightened, then he remembers his pastor's cliche of the previous Sunday, "It doesn't matter what you believe just so you are sincere." He thinks, "I was perfectly sincere in thinking that that arsenic was something else. Being perfectly sincere, I won't worry anything about it."

How does it turn out? You know how. His wife finds a corpse in the bed the next morning. She could truthfully embellish his tombstone with the words, "The victim of his pastor's cliche."

(5) Compromise rather than contend. This isn't what God's Word says. It says, "Content earnestly for the faith." Certainly, a Christian should not be a mean, contentious person who likes to contend just in order to be contentious, but he should certainly stand up for the truth and the right.

PAUL  
TIBER

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"Let's have peaceful co-existence"—if by co-existence one means "live and let live" then we agree. Baptists have always been champions of religious liberty. On the other hand, if co-operation across doctrinal lines is meant, then we heartily disagree. "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3)

"Join the church of your choice and one church is just as good as another"—there are two categories of churches. The church that Jesus built is one, and all churches which men have created is the other. A most important step which a believer should take is to become a member of the church of Jesus' choice (Eph. 5:25-27) which is a Scripturally established Baptist church. Obviously, one church is not as good as another. At least our Lord does not think so!

"It makes no difference what one believes so long as he is sincere"—what one believes makes the difference between eternal life and eternal death. When one affirms that what one believes is unimportant, then he is saying that his own beliefs are unimportant as well. Sincerity of belief is, of course, required in the exercise of faith, but if sincerity is focused upon false doctrine then sincerity becomes a delusion and the "sincere person" is deceived. We Baptists must ever be on guard against embracing error with sincerity. It should be remembered that "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jer. 17:9)

"Compromise rather than contend"—obviously our forebearers in the faith, did not compromise their Baptist practices, principles, or convictions. If they believed that, then 50 million of them would have died natural deaths instead of being martyred. Scripture exhorts to contend for the Faith rather than compromise. (Jude 3). Compromising of Scriptural tenets is plainly contrary to God's Word.

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Most religious groups and organizations will use cliches such as these to make it sound right. Usually these are based on a logical conclusion as determined by ungodly ideals. We must never be swayed by any statement. Our beliefs and actions must be determined by the Word of God alone. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (II Timothy 3:16,17). "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105). We are told not to lean toward our own understanding. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Prov. 3:5,6).

We do not have space to go into each statement in detail, but we shall try to give a brief thought and you can go on from there.

(1) Let's have peaceful co-existence. How can we co-exist with those whose beliefs differ with the Word of God? "Can two walk together, except they be agreed." (Amos 3:3).

(2) Join the church of your choice. No where do we find that the people in Bible times had a choice. "... and the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." (Acts 2:47). Nobody has a choice, since there is only one church. (I'm talking about one organization. There are many local bodies but only one organization).

(3) One church is just as good as another. It wasn't for Christ. He organized His own. When He talked with Peter about this He said, "... I will build (edify or build up) my church ..." (Matt. 16:18).

(4) It makes no difference what one believes so long as he is sincere. It made a difference with Paul. Paul was sincere when he persecuted Christians as Saul of Tarsus. "I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day. And I perse-

cuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women." (Acts 22:3, 4). His sincerity or zealotness was not enough. He had to be saved.

(5) Compromise rather than contend. This is the easiest path, but not the right one. Our Lord didn't do it. "Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" (Matt. 23:31-33). (We are to be followers of Jesus). We are told that Paul contended with them. "Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry. Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him." (Acts 17:16-17).

E. G.  
COOK

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(1) Peaceful co-existence sure would have kept our Lord's churches from suffering such awful persecution during the awful dark ages. Had they believed in peaceful co-existence, they would not have been forced to hide out in dens and caves in the mountains in order to be able to worship. Had the Lord's precious saints during that awful time, believed in and practiced peaceful co-existence, untold thousands, yea, millions of them would not have been beheaded, burned at the stake, thrown to hungry lions, or buried alive. But, neither would they have heard their dear Lord saying to them in Rev. 2:9: "I know thy tribulation and poverty (but thou art rich)."

When we get on the other side we will probably find that the wealthiest people over there are these who preferred ignominious death rather than peaceful co-existence. In II Cor. 6:14, Paul said to the church at Corinth (not to some couple planning to get married), "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers." Those dear saints who died such awful deaths believed God meant what He said in that verse. But, alas, most Baptists in our day prefer peaceful co-existence rather than persecution for a little season.

(2) This statement is so filthy, slimy, disgusting, and vulgar that any time one of the Lord's saints tells someone to do that, he should have his mouth washed out real good with water and lye soap, because he is implying that one church is just as good as another.

(3) If I were to say that the churches founded by Luther, Calvin, Wesley, and old vulgar Henry VIII are as good as the one my Lord founded, I would, in effect, be saying those men were just as

good as Jesus Christ. A church is no better than its founder. My Lord has been exalted to the right hand of the Father on high, given a name above every name, and the pre-eminence in all things. Which of the other church founders have been so blessed? In Salt Lake City I saw Adam, Noah, Abraham, David and Peter lined up with Joe Smith. But I certainly do not expect to see Luther, Calvin, Wesley, and Henry VIII lined up with Jesus Christ.

I can see nothing radically wrong with the world believing that one church is as good as another. In the eyes of the world all the difference that might be seen would be in favor of the churches with a worldly origin. The Lord's churches have a Heavenly origin. "There was a man (John the Baptist) sent from God," Jno. 1:6. This man that was sent from God prepared a people for our Lord to use in organizing His first Baptist church. It was a Baptist church because her founder and her members were all baptized by a Baptist preacher. So true Baptist baptism is from Heaven. I challenge anyone to read the little booklet "Trilemma" by J. R. Graves and then believe that Protestant baptism is from Heaven. And not only is true Baptist baptism from Heaven, true Baptist churches are from Heaven, because her founder came down from Heaven.

Yes, the world may, and indeed can say, that one church is as good as another, but for me to say that would be blasphemy pure and simple. How could a church founded by Henry VIII be as good as one founded by Jesus Christ? Old Henry lived with six different wives during his church's first fourteen years. One of his wives died in the dungeon where she had been thrown in order to get her out of his way. He had two of the others beheaded to get them out of his way. Another one died of some cause or other after one short year with him. Still old Henry loved his Catholic doctrines. A school teacher there in London began to teach that the bread and the wine in their sacrament did not actually become the flesh and blood of Christ. For this awful crime old Henry had Prof. Lambert slowly burned to death. To say that a church founded by a reprobate like that is as good as the one founded by Jesus Christ is not an unpardonable sin, but from my viewpoint it should be.

(4) Saul of Tarsus was as sincere about what he believed when he left Jerusalem to go to Damascus that day as he was when he got to Damascus. If you could ask him if it makes any difference what you believe just so you are sincere, he would tell you without a moment's hesitation that sincerity has nothing to do with it. Your being sincere about something that is false does not make it true.

(5) In Jude 3, Jude says it was needful for him to write and exhort us to earnestly contend for the faith. This word "contend" does not mean that we should argue like a Campbellite. It means to stand upon God's Word and refuse to be moved. A compromising Christian isn't worth his salt.

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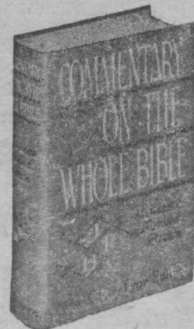


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# ADAM'S RIB

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## "GUARD AGAINST BLASPHEMING"

"The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, THAT THE WORD OF GOD BE NOT BLASPHEMED." (Titus 2:3-5).

There have been a lot of words written in the last 10-12 articles concerning the way we, as women, are to behave. Words on holiness, being false accusers, wine-bibbers, teachers of good things, sobriety, loving our husband and children, discreet, home keepers, good, and obedient. Yes, a lot of words. And they all add up to this last phrase — THAT THE WORD OF GOD BE NOT BLASPHEMED. Our God is very jealous of His Word. When people have contempt or ridicule, mock, and use sarcasm for the Word of God it is the same as doing it to the Author. Therefore, we are to behave in such a manner as to prevent this. No one lives to herself alone. Our actions do influence others. When we are responsible for causing others to blaspheme, we must bear the guilt of this sin.

This was brought home to me in a very practical way recently. As I was driving, I made a very foolish error nearly causing a fellow driver to have an accident. He pointed his finger at me, and since I could read lips, I was able to tell what he said. The air was pol-

luted with the filth that came from his mouth. My first reaction was indignation, but quickly, the Lord rebuked me. It was my irresponsible action that had incurred this onslaught. It mattered not that this man would curse anyway, I am to behave myself in such a manner as to glorify the Saviour, not to cause others to sin. I'm sure this man has enough to answer to the Lord for without my adding to his list of sins.

"And whatsoever ye do in Word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him." — (Col. 3:17).



## "Second Coming"

(Continued from page three)

Paul said:

"But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils" — I Cor. 10:20.

Listen, beloved, the Devil is the director, the organizer, and the perpetrator of all the false religions of the world, and in turn he is the object that is worshipped. He has been man's enemy for six thousand years. I ask you, is he to have free reign forever? Is he going on forever making trades with the rulers of this world? Is he going on forever as the prince of this world? Is he going on forever as the god of this world? Is he going on forever perpetrating the false religions that he has offered unto the world?

Beloved, humanity is helpless before him. Man is unable to chain him, and has been unable to for six thousand years. The church, for two thousand years, has not been able to dethrone him. Legislation has not been able to make him powerless. As I have often said, man has tried, but man can't reform the Devil out of the world. The church can't preach the Devil out of the world, and the government can't legislate the Devil out of the world. The only hope we have, and the only one who can destroy him, is the Lord Jesus Christ.

I rejoice when I read:

"And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season" — Rev. 20:2,3.

Thank God, some day the greater than Satan, the stronger than the strong man, is coming and is going to arrest this almost all-powerful creature, who is so powerful that even the archangel did not dare rebuke him, and is going to cast him down to Hell. Then we can say, "To Hell with the Devil forever." Beloved, Jesus has to come to put an end to Satan.

V

HE MUST COME TO FULFILL SCRIPTURES CONCERNING THE JEW.

I am not a Jew hater; neither am I a Jew baiter. I love God's Book. The Jews are revealed in the Bible as God's peculiar people who are honored above all nations. Notice:

"And the Lord hath avouched thee this day to be his PECULIAR PEOPLE, as he hath promised thee, and that thou shouldest keep all his commandments; And to make thee high ABOVE ALL NATIONS which he hath made, in praise, and in name, and in honour; and that thou mayest be an holy people unto the Lord thy God, as he hath spoken" — Deut. 26:18, 19.

Is this true today? Ten tribes are lost to the eye of man, and even the other two tribes are hated and despised. Beloved, God's purposes for the Jews certainly have not been fulfilled.

Listen:

"For the Lord will have mercy

on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel, and SET THEM IN THEIR OWN LAND: and the strangers shall be joined with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob. And the people shall take them, and bring them to their place: and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of the Lord FOR SERVANTS and HANDMAIDS: and THEY SHALL TAKE THEM CAPTIVES, WHOSE CAPTIVES THEY WERE: and they shall rule over their oppressors" — Isaiah 14:1,2.

Have you seen this fulfilled? Have you seen Jews ruling over Gentiles today? No, No, beloved, but there is the prophecy that someday the Gentiles shall be captive unto the Jews, and the Jews shall rule over them. This is still definitely not fulfilled.

Notice again:

"Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that it shall be no more said, The Lord liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, the Lord liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their LAND that I gave unto their fathers" — Jer. 16:14,15.

When we came to the New Testament, we find in Acts 15 when they had that great Bible Conference, they discussed the matter of salvation. That was all that they

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met for in that first Jerusalem Conference — to discuss salvation. We read that James said:

"Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name" — Acts 15:14.

Beloved, that is what God is doing today. He is visiting Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. Every once in a while some heretical preacher will write, saying, "I thought God was trying to save the world." Beloved, God isn't "trying" to do anything. He is doing exactly what He wants to do. He isn't trying to save anybody. He is taking out of the Gentiles a people for His name.

James goes on to say:

"After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up" — Acts 15:16.

Beloved, when God gets through picking up a handful of Gentiles, God is going to save a nation. We read:

"And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob" — Rom. 11:26.

When is it going to come to pass? When my Lord Jesus Christ returns. Beloved, He is coming back.

VI

HE MUST COME TO FULFILL PREDICTIONS AS TO THIS WORLD.

Whether you believe it or not, this old world is in an awful mess. Man has tried to make it a better place in which to live, but every

attempt that man has made has failed. The whole world is out of joint.

Look at the educational world. It is controlled today by agnostics. In the educational world, primarily the Bible is an idle superstition and an outgrown religious garment that has been laid aside by the leaders of education.

Look at the economic world. Greed and dishonesty are giving rise to commercial instability, the like of which you and I are not aware of in this hour. You used to hear a lot said about capital. Beloved, I tell you, it is pathetic to think about the things that the labor leaders, and the labor racketeers are guilty of in this hour. The capitalist of fifty years ago, with all their greed and slave-driving methods, never thought about stooping so low and doing the things that are being done today in the name of organized labor.

The governmental world is in a terrible condition. Do you realize that everything from an absolute monarchy to absolute socialism has been tried? We have had theocracy, we have had democracy, and now we have mobocracy. The theocracy was under God, when God led the Jews through the wilderness. Democracy is such as we have in this nation. Mobocracy is such as they have in Russia. All these have been tried, and yet the world, after having tried them stands today certainly as no Utopia. Whenever you use the word "civilization," you are using a high sounding word that is as empty as a tinkling cymbal. There is no meaning in it. The governmental world is a failure.

Look at the moral world. You will agree with me, I am sure, that putrefaction has set in and that morals are a thing of the past. Crime reached an all-time high in the United States during 1960 — with an astounding 98 per cent increase over 1950 while the population rise during this decade was only 18 per cent.

Criminal elements are growing. For ever 100,000 population there were 3,640 arrests in 1960. Arrests of juveniles have more than doubled since 1950.

Beloved, we are going downhill on a toboggan slide at a fast pace. The nations are headed for Sodom and Gomorrah, at a fast pace. I almost hesitate to mention Sodom and Gomorrah, even to a supposed-to-be religious audience, or even at a Bible Conference, for I am afraid somebody will want to know if there are any empty houses over there for rent.

We read:

"For whosoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together" — Mt. 24:28.

The word for "eagle" is the same as our buzzard. When you see an old buzzard flying about in the air above, you know something is dead. Well, this old world morally and spiritually is fast becoming more and more like a rotting carcass.

ing more and more like a rotting carcass.

Look at the religious world. You know by this time, beloved, that I am not a post-millennialist. I am not seeing things getting one bit better in this old world.

Look, I say, at the religious world. Seminaries are filled with near-infidels. There is plenty of higher criticism in our seminaries, with the result that the pulpits are echoing these God-dishonoring heresies and our churches are half empty. There is no prayer meeting in the majority of churches on Wednesday night, and the Lord's Day is desecrated. They used to call the Lord's Day a Holy Day; now it is a fun day. It used to be thought of as a time of worship, and now it is thought of as a time for recreation.

Beloved, I tell you, conditions will get worse. Still darker hours await this world, and I don't expect the seminaries and churches to help this world one particle.

Look at the physical world. The physical world has suffered too.

We read:

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." — Rom. 5:12.

If you will study this carefully, I think you will find that it is talking about the physical world as well as the spiritual. Oh, how the physical world is suffering today because of sin!

We read:

"How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the FLOCKS OF SHEEP ARE MADE DESOLATE." — Joel 1:18.

"How long shall the LAND MOURN, and the herbs of every field wither, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein? the beasts are consumed, and the birds; because they said, He shall not see our last end." — Jer. 12:4.

"For we know that the whole CREATION GROANETH and travaileth in pain together until now." — Rom. 8:22.

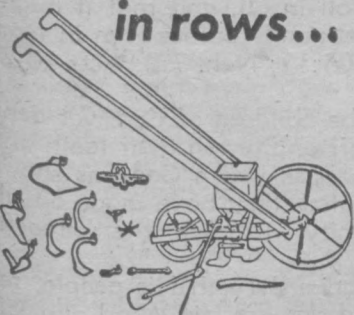
That corruption of the physical world began in the day of Adam. Listen:

"And unto Adam he said, Because thou has hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: CURSED is the ground for thy sake; IN SORROW shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field." — Gen. 3:17, 18.

Thank God, someday all will be changed. There will be a perfect world. The Utopia will come. Listen:

"Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save" (Continued on page 6, column 1)

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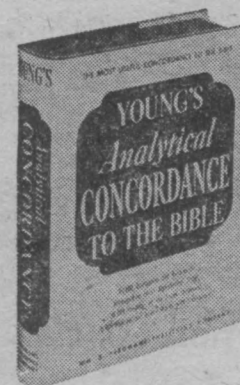
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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

MARCH 23, 1974

PAGE FIVE



## "Second Coming"

(Continued from page five)

you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall **WATERS BREAK OUT**, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, **NOR ANY RAVENOUS BEAST** shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." — Isa. 35:4-10.

Listen, beloved, only the creation's Creator can change the creation's corruption. The only hope we have is the coming again of Him who has gone away to "change His clothes." Beloved, I say He must come.

### VII

#### HE MUST COME TO FULFILL THE HOPE OF THE DEAD.

"And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves **GROAN** within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the **REDEMPTION OF OUR BODY**." — Rom. 8:23.

The old body hasn't been redeemed yet. Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, saying:

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we **GROAN**, **EARNESTLY DESIRING TO BE CLOTHED UPON WITH OUR HOUSE WHICH IS FROM HEAVEN**: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life." — II Cor. 5:1-4.

Yes, beloved, the dead — your dead and my dead are in a disembodied state now. They are un-

rewarded. Paul, great man of God that he was, hasn't gotten a reward yet. Notice:

"For the Son of man **SHALL COME** in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then **HE SHALL REWARD** every man according to his works." — Mt. 16:27.

"And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be **RECOMPENSED AT THE RESURRECTION OF THE JUST**." — Luke 14:14.

Every once in a while I will read in a newspaper where it says that some one has been called to his reward. I have even heard preachers at a funeral, say that the individual had been called to his reward. No, no, beloved, the dearest child of God that ever lived hasn't gotten one particle of his reward yet.

I say, beloved, your dead and my dead are disembodied and unrewarded. Do you mean to tell me that my God is going to allow our dead to go on forever disembodied and unrewarded? Beloved, He has to come to fulfill the hope of the dead. Must the dead go on eternally waiting for a time to come when they shall be embodied and when they shall be rewarded? If that be true, their hope is only a idle dream, for Paul says:

"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first" — I Thess. 4:14-16.

Our aged Brother Crofts beautifully sang this morning, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross." He has sung it more than fifty times at my request over the years, and always thrills my soul as it did this morning. Just a few days ago a brother of his over in England, whom I know, and with whom I have visited, was called home. He is now gone to be with God. He loved the truth of sovereign grace. He loved the message of THE BAPTIST EXAMINER, but in spite of his love for the truth, in God's time He took him home. Go stand beside that brother's grave this morning and look down and say, "Is this the best that God can do?"

I go over to the cemetery most often and I stand beside a little grave that means much to me. As

I look at a little grave that marks the resting place of a little disembodied, unrewarded soldier of the Lord Jesus, I say, "Is this the best that God can do?" Oh, no, beloved, someday disembodied, unrewarded souls are going to be embodied again and rewarded. When? At the coming of Jesus Christ. Beloved, He must come to fulfill the hope of the dead, or else their hope means nothing.

### CONCLUSION

What is our business here? — Jesus said:

"**OCCUPY TILL I COME**" — Luke 19:13.

In verse 12 He talks about going away into a "far country." Verse 15 says, "When he was returned." Now look at it. Verse 12 speaks of a "far country." Verse 15 speaks of the time of His return. Verse 13 (in between verses 12 and 13) says "Occupy till I come."

Beloved, that is our business — we are to occupy. Are we to retire? Are we to quit? Beloved, I have quit the ministry I suspect a hundred times, but I always got back in before time to preach the next Sunday. I have quit printing THE BAPTIST EXAMINER more times than once, but the next issue always came out. What are we going to do? Going to give up? No, it is our business to "occupy." Listen:

"And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he

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will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. **BLESSED ARE THOSE SERVANTS, WHOM THE LORD WHEN HE COMETH SHALL FIND WATCHING**: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them" — Luke 12:36,37.

I go back and read the story of Joseph, loved by his father, yet hated by his brethren, sorely tempted and yet it says concerning Him:

"For such an high priest became us, who is **HOLY, HARMLESS, UNDEFILED, SEPARATE FROM SINNERS, and MADE HIGHER THAN THE HEAVENS**" — Heb. 7:26.

They put Joseph in prison, which is a place of shame. There he met the butler and the baker. To one he gave a message of cheer and to the other a sentence of death. Our Lord Jesus Christ went to Calvary, which was likewise a place of shame. There He met a thief on one hand and a thief on the other. To one He gave a message of cheer, for He said, "Today wilt thou be with me in Paradise." To the other, there was an unspoken, silent message of doom, in that he went into eternity unsaved.

Later on, Joseph was exalted to Egypt's throne. The sovereignty that he enjoyed when he was exalted to the throne of Egypt had been foretold years before by his dreams. Finally, that which he had dreamed, and that which he had spoken to his father and brothers about, was gloriously fulfilled when they bowed the knee, and publicly recognized him. When all Egypt bowed before his chariot, his dreams were fulfilled. One day, (Continued on page 7, column 1)

# Indisputable Sovereignty Of An Omnipotent God

## THE WILL

(Continued from last week)

Rom. 11:24. "For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree, . . ." (Is it possible for a thing to graft itself?).

Rom. 16:13. "Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, . . ." (This election is personal).

Eph. 2:1. "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins." (God in His Word likens a sinner to one who is dead and as a dead person, we are unable to do one thing to accomplish our salvation, not even to believe, except it be given us to do so. In John chapter eleven we have in Lazarus a good type of sinner dead in trespasses and sins, helpless, hopeless, unable to move toward God, until His quickening power awakens and enables the sinner to "come forth").

Isa. 40:13. "Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord or being his counsellor hath taught him?"

Isa. 40:8. "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

Prov. 19:21. "There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand" (Let us beware lest many devices are found in our heart, and we are found fighting against God and His Word as many are doing today, deceiving themselves and others. "Nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand.")

Luke 11:28. "But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."

This pamphlet is written to four classes of people, for their learning (Prov. 1:5). May God who is rich in mercy, open the eyes of saint and sinner as they read and ponder over His Word.

1. For those who are saved, and have not yet seen this great truth. May they get a glimpse of God, such as they never had before, and realize that God is **SOVEREIGN** in all things and doeth according to His "own will" and not the will of the creature, for when a person grasps this in its fullest sense he will praise Him as he never has before for His distinguishing love in making him an object of mercy while others have been made "vessels of wrath."

2. For those who are not saved, that they might perhaps for the first time have the fear of God implanted in their hearts and be made to realize that God is sovereign; and that He is just as righteous in thrusting sinners into hell as He is in saving them; that their salvation rests with God and except it pleases Him to have mercy on them they will have no hope in time or eternity, and thus be made to cry "What must I do to be saved?" Yes, the gospel is still sounding forth and sinners are still being saved, but time is short. Hasten then His Word to obey (Isa. 45:22; Rom. 5:6, 8; John 6:37; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Tim. 1:15).

3. For those to whom it has pleased God to reveal His sovereignty, that they might be strengthened in this truth to the fuller realization of God Who is all in all, and that it might be the means of their walking continually before Him in fear. (Mal. 3:16; Psalm 89:7; Psalm 103:17; Neh. 7:2; Acts 10:2; Luke 1:50).

4. For those who profess to be children of God, yet deny and hate His sovereignty, who scoff and gnash their teeth and maliciously utter slander against those whom God has shown this great truth. Little do they realize they have made an alliance with those who are at enmity with God, the unregenerate.

Oh, that God would deal graciously with His people, remove from their hearts the hatred against His Word and His people and put in its place the "Love of Christ which passeth knowledge," that the whole "household of faith" might be "knit together in love," with one common desire to walk humbly and softly before Him and to give Him all the honour, praise and glory, now and forevermore.

If the Lord of Heaven and earth has hid the majestic truth of "God's sovereignty" from such "wise and prudent" ones, it is because "it seemed good in His sight." And if the Lord of Heaven and earth has graciously made others receptive of this truth, it is again "because it seemed good in His sight" (Matt. 11:25,26). "For a man can receive nothing, except it be given him from Heaven" (John 3:27).

(To Be Continued Next Week)

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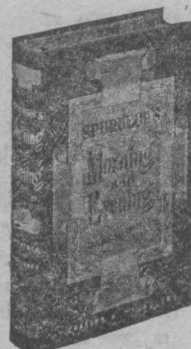
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### "Second Coming"

(Continued from page 6)

beloved, from the East, and from the North, and the South, and from the isles of the sea and from the depths of the ocean, every creature in Heaven and every creature on earth and every creature in the depths of the sea shall bow before the Lord Jesus Christ to recognize Him as King of kings and Lord of lords. He has to come, I say He must come.

Oh, what a day of rejoicing that will be! Out yonder some of God's elect of Asia will sing "One Lord;" others of God's elect on this continent will sing "One faith;" and some of God's elect in the isles of the sea will sing "One Baptism." All together we will bow before Him in one hallelujah chorus to sing, "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism." To whom shall we be singing our praise? To the Christ who is coming again to fulfill all these Scriptures relating to Him.

I remember the day when the disciples started to cross the Sea of Galilee in their little boat. Jesus had retired to a mountain. The wind blew. They rowed hard for about 25 or 30 furlongs, but they didn't make any progress. It looked like the ship might go down, but they kept at the oars. Then Jesus came. I often read this story in John 6:15-21 for it is a precious story to me.

I go back to think how that Jesus has gone away from us. As the disciples started to cross that little sea Jesus went up into the mountain to pray. Where is my Lord today? He is praying, beloved. Among other things He is interceding for you and for me.

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us"—Heb. 9:24.

As those disciples were crossing that little body of water, suddenly a storm swooped down upon them and the wind blew. Beloved, the Devil, who is the prince of the power of the air, stirred up those waves. He still stirs the waves every once in a while to destroy God's own.

That restless sea pictures the world's opposition to the Lord Jesus Christ. The ship that those individuals were in represents the church. It was in the sea but not

a part of it. Of course in this Twentieth Century things have changed considerably. With baseball teams and basketball teams and bowling teams in most of our churches, our churches are pretty well tied down in the sea, but in Jesus' day the ship was in the sea, but was not a part of it.

You will notice, beloved, there was just one ship. There wasn't any squadron. There wasn't any fleet. There was just one ship. You can believe if you want to that the Campbellites and the Methodists and the Holy Rollers and all the rest of that crowd are churches of the Lord Jesus Christ, but I fall back on this fact, there was just one ship that these disciples were in. I am going to stick to the end in the good old Baptist ship that I believe is going to persevere and safely anchor on the other side.

That wind and the storm, prefigures the attacks of Satan, who is the prince of the power of the air. You will notice that the disciples inside this vessel pulled at the oars, but they couldn't still the storm.

I ask you, beloved, what have you done in your community to stop the raging of the Devil? After two thousand years of the history of this world since Jesus Christ went back to Heaven, I ask you, if it isn't true that this world today is still just like a restless sea? They couldn't stop the storm. But I'll tell you what they did do. They pulled at the oars. I say to you, beloved, in your community, you can't stop the raging of the Devil, yet each of us can be a faithful man of God, believing His Word, when He said, "Occupy till I come."

The Word of God says that they rowed about 25 or 30 furlongs. Now my Lord is omniscient. He knew exactly how far they were going to row. He knows exactly how far His church is going to "row," but He didn't tell us. He said that they rowed between 25 and 30 furlongs. Do you know why? If He had said that they rowed 27½ furlongs or 28 furlongs until He came, some smart fellow would have figured out the distance of a furlong and would have set a date for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, the Son of God just said that they rowed between 25 and 30 furlongs. We don't know when He is coming, but, beloved, I beg you to keep on pulling at the oars until Jesus Christ comes.

Then notice this Scripture: "And immediately the ship was at the land whither they went"—John 6:21.

Beloved, the rowing was over when Jesus came. Thank God, all the trials and all the burdens and all the heartaches that Baptist preachers and Baptist laymen and Baptist laywomen, who try to stand for Jesus Christ may ever have, will all be over when Jesus comes. What are we to do while we are waiting? We are to "occupy."

There is one other thing that strikes me so forcibly about this. When Jesus came, He didn't upbraid his disciples because they couldn't still the storm. He didn't say, "You ought to have done better." He didn't say, "Why didn't you try harder?"

Beloved, I thank God, someday He is coming, and when He comes He is not going to upbraid us, He is not going to fuss at us. Rather, He is going to receive us.

May God help you to "occupy" till He comes.



### Joseph Wilson

(Continued from page one)

George A. Buttrick. Shades of J. B. Boyce and John A. Broadus! What would these two Baptist giants of days gone by have thought of such goings-on at the seminary they had so much to do with? Boyce was founder and first president. Broadus was second president. But my brother, there is a world, yea, an eternity of difference between the glorious Bible Truths taught by these two men, and the infidel heresy taught by Buttrick. And someone will say, why fight the SBC and its Co-op god, and its infidel schools! If you will compare the theology of J. P. Boyce, which was once taught at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, with the teaching in the books by Buttrick, you will know why every honest, sincere, devoted believer in the Bible will be unalterably opposed to the SBC.

The SBC was wrong to start with. Christ started His church—a Missionary Baptist Church. He promised it perpetuity till His coming again. He has carried, and is carrying out this promise. His church is not to be a part of any other association, convention, or organization of any kind. The SBC was started by man (or the devil). It has no promise from God in anywise. It has no indwelling Holy Spirit. The SBC, in its inception, was not the monstrous, hellish, black, vile, wicked thing it is today. But it was on the way, because it was contrary to Scripture to start with. We can see in the contrast between Boyce's great Theology Book and Buttrick's heresies—we can see where unscriptural organizations, as the SBC, eventually lead to. No one should have supported the SBC to start with, because it was contrary to Scripture. But it was not what it is today. Now, in this day, with its sin and infidelity blazoned abroad in unmistakable language for all the world to see—now there is absolutely no excuse for any person, who loves Jesus Christ and believes the Bible, to remain one moment longer as a member of a church which is in the SBC. Why will men—who no doubt are saved men—who know many of the truths of God's Word—and who know and admit that they know that the SBC is rotten to the core—why will these men (and their number is many), stay in this hellish organization? Well, I leave them to answer to God for their sinful compromising.

That George Buttrick is not a saved person—that he is an infidel—is beyond any honest controversy. Those who know me will bear me witness that I am slow to say a man is not saved. I have been often criticized by good friends,

because I think many who differ with me greatly are still brothers in Christ. There are many who hold doctrines against which I battle most vehemently, yet I do not say they are not saved. But of this man Buttrick, I do not hesitate to say that he is an unsaved person. Mr. Buttrick is general editor of the INTERPRETER'S BIBLE. This is a commentary on the Bible which is noted for its attacks on the Bible itself. It is not a commentary. It is a bold, infidel attack on the Bible. This set of books is a ravaging wolf in sheep's clothing. I was once looking for a book on Hebrews to give to a preacher friend. The lady in the book store offered me the volume of the Interpreter's Bible which contained Hebrews. I replied to her offer, "Lady, I would rather buy him a fifth of liquor than that book." And I had. Liquor is damnable and drunkenness is a sin. But all the liquor in the world is not as dangerous and as soul-destroying as the false teachings of the Interpreter's Bible. And this Mr. Buttrick is the general editor of this "pot of poison." Mr. Buttrick is on record, in printed page, as denying the infallibility of the Bible, as saying there are contradictions in the Bible, as teaching that science has disproved the Bible, as condemning the moral and ethical teachings of the Bible. He is on record as denying the teaching of the substitutionary atonement of Christ, to satisfy the justice of God, for the sins of God's elect.

Now this man who denies the infallibility of the Bible, and who opposes many of its plainest teachings, cannot be a saved person. This man is an infidel, in that he does not believe in the God and in the Lord Jesus Christ who is set forth in the Bible. He surely would admit this. Mr. Buttrick does not believe in the God of the Bible, and that makes him an infidel. He has concocted him a god and a Jesus out of the laboratory of his own depraved mind, and he worships these false gods with great zeal. This man is 80 years old. He will soon be in the Hell in which he may not believe, unless the God in whom he does not believe is pleased to grant him saving repentance and saving faith.

Now this man, who is an unsaved infidel with a past history of continued attack on God's Word, was the invited lecturer at the SBC seminary in Louisville, Ky. He lectured to the young men studying there—the young men who will soon be filling Southern Baptist pulpits across America. This man was ordained in the Congregational church, pastored many years in a Presbyterian church, and so far as I know has never even been a professed Baptist. Yet, here he was lecturing in an SBC seminary.

I wonder what defense SBC leaders can make of this. I doubt they will make any. Modernistic infidelity is so far advanced in SBC circles that it does not any longer have to make defence. It is an accepted thing. There was a day when men like this were not allowed to speak at the Louisville

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Seminary. There was a day when a teacher in the seminary was fired for even beginning to dabble in the things which Buttrick openly avows. But those days are gone forever. Boyce is gone. Broadus is gone. The others who should not have been in the SBC, but who did believe the Bible and Baptist Truths in the main, they are gone now. And what do we have left? Men who will invite unsaved infidels to lecture in schools built and maintained by money put in the offerings taken in SBC churches, that's what we have left.

I would speak a word to SBC leadership, but I consider them too far gone. I would speak a word to SBC school leaders, but I consider them too far gone. But I will speak a word to those preachers in the SBC who really believe in the virgin-born Son of God as their Lord and Saviour, and believe the Bible is the Word of God. I ask them, what are you going to do? How long are you going to remain in this wicked organization? How long are you going to hide your head and pretend it isn't so? You know it is so. You know the SBC is vile and rotten, and highly dishonoring to God. How long will you lie to, and deceive, and mislead your congregation? Why not play the man? Why not be true to God and come out—come out now—of this ungodly and un-Biblical thing?

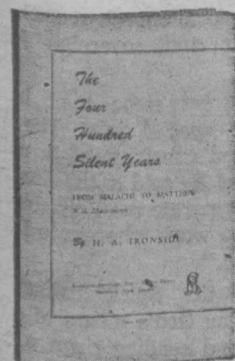
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MARCH 23, 1974

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## Joseph Wilson

(Continued from page seven)

many preachers who speak out against the sin and wickedness in the SBC, and yet remain in it. How long will you deceive yourself by pretending that speaking out once in a while is all God requires of you? You are doubly guilty. You will soon lose the respect of all men. How can men continue to respect you when you tell them what is wrong with the SBC, and yet, you continue to be a part of it? I would say to you, put up or shut up. Get out of the ungodly mess, or quit yapping about it.

I would say a word to the many saved people who are in SBC churches. Why do you continue in a church that is part of such a wicked organization? Why do you put your money into a pot out of which these wicked, God-dishonoring institutions are fed and sustained? Don't tell me that after you give it, you are not responsible for what is done with it. You know better than that. You gave money to the school that invited this unsaved infidel as a special

speaker. How long are you going to continue such rebellion against God? Get out! Get out now! Become a member of a true, sound, Independent Missionary Baptist Church.

I would say a word to those who are in true Independent Baptist Churches. Let us thank God that He has brought us where we are, and let us serve Him faithfully in and through His true churches. May God bless you all!



## Security

(Continued from page one)

9, 11, 13, 21, etc. These Scriptures are selected at random and by no means are all the Scriptures that can be cited to show the impossibility of justification by works (law).

But does not the Bible say in James that Abraham was justified by works? Most assuredly it does! (James 2:21-22) Abraham was justified by works (Genesis 22:6-14) some 40 years after he was justified by faith (Gen. 15:6; Romans 4:3). Now read James 2:23! (The justification I am discussing here has to do with man's standing before God).

So those of the Galatians, who were trying to justify themselves by the deeds of the law, were not saved to begin with. They were trusting in their own works and righteousness, instead of the finished work of Christ. They were trying to approach God without an intercessor. The Bible says of our righteousness that it is filthy and unacceptable (Isaiah 64:6).

Remember, man cannot be saved by perfect obedience; for he cannot render it, furthermore, he cannot be saved by imperfect obedience for God will not accept it. These Galatians had failed to believe the great truth of Ephesians 2:5, 8.

Those that make this verse teach apostasy read only the last phrase, and remove it entirely from its context. Ridiculous and foolish heresies can be brought out and taught by isolating a phrase or a verse and not examining the context (what the verses before and after say). For instance, I can prove to you that Samson married a cow. Judges 14:18 says he married a cow: "if ye had not plowed with my heifer (young cow) . . .". Now I will have to assume that those who isolate this phrase "ye are fallen from Grace," and do not safely expound the context of Scriptures that plainly teach the impossibility of final apostasy, must in all fairness teach that Samson married a cow. And if one believes this, I will give him credit for believing anything. The context of Judges 14 shows plainly that Samson was speaking of his wife. The context of our text in Galatians 5:4 plainly shows that these people were trying to justify themselves by the deeds of the law, when they should have been believing in the Lord Jesus, because this is the only way to have peace with God. (Romans 5:1).

Now in order for a saved person to be lost, he would have to become a goat. The Lord speaks of His people, whether lost or saved, as sheep. Now this raises the question: When did the goat become a sheep and then back to a goat again? The answer is never. He was a sheep to begin with. Before he was saved he was a lost sheep. After conversion, he was a saved sheep. He was never a goat. Read the parable of the lost sheep in Luke 15:4-7. The 100 sheep represent the total number of the elect. This is a predetermined, certain, and fixed number that is known only to God. This fixed number cannot be diminished from by the devil and all His demons. Nor can it be added to by the high pressure tactics and persuasion of Arminianism. See also John 10:1-18.

For one who was foreknown (fore-loved, for "know" in the Bible is used in the most intimate sense of the word love), (Romans 8:29), by the Lord Jesus, the Lord would have to be a liar. Away with such a thought from the earth! The Lord said to some in Matthew 7:23, "I never knew (loved) you . . ." Yet, if a saved person could be lost again, there was a time during the saved state the Lord knew (loved) him, then when apostasy occurred, the man was no longer known (loved). This makes the Lord tell a falsehood, for He said "never knew." Hebrews 6:18 says our God cannot lie. I Timothy 3:16 says Christ was God manifest in the flesh.

God, when He determined in Himself to glorify His mercies and the riches of His grace in the redemption of some (not all) of Adam's fallen race, did not see fit to leave the work of perseverance in the hands of the redeemed. Because Adam, our federal head and representative in his perfect state, had been found insufficient for this. Man's own instability had already been his undoing. Man's perseverance is hopeless, if he has nothing better to secure it than his own strength.

God introduced a better and everlasting covenant, (Read Hebrews, it tells of this covenant and of its mediator), and of which the perseverance was done by a mediator,

one who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. One who cannot fail, one who would undertake for His people, and do for them what they could not do. This is the covenant of Grace. "Christ is able (and does) to save to the uttermost, all that come to God by Him, seeing He ever lives to make intercession for them." The covenant of works (law) suspended eternal life on the fruit of man's own strength; the covenant of Grace, and all graces necessary for a saint (made so by grace) to persevere, is rested upon the shoulders of another, the mediator Himself, the Man, Christ Jesus our Lord. Because Christ persevered, and His righteousness is imputed unto me by faith (Romans 4:11; Romans 4:22-25), I shall persevere, not in my strength, but His. I write this for all who have believed in Him who justifies the ungodly, and say with Job, "the righteous also shall hold on his way" (Job 17:9). May God bless you.



## Authority

(Continued from page one)

Father upon you: But tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."

Jesus said in Mt. 28:18, "All power is given unto me in Heaven and earth." Jesus was going back to the Father but He promised He would send the Holy Spirit to empower His church to carry on His work He gave it.

Read Isaiah 40:31, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary, and they shall walk, and not faint."

Many churches today are trying to do the Lord's work with gimmicks, with social organizations, with mission boards and many other things. Churches need to be waiting and seeking the Lord for power. Jesus said, "without me you can do nothing."

Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ that strengtheneth me."

David in Ps. 121:1-2 said, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord which made Heaven and earth."

We need to wait on Him for leadership recognizing Him as our Lord, (Acts 3:23) and the head of His true churches (Eph. 5:23).

### III

To teach them to observe all things.

Teaching them to follow the Lord in baptism (Mt. 28:19,20). Baptism is a church ordinance, and is to be administered only by authority of a true Baptist Church. All others are alien baptisms.

Teach them to observe the Lord's Supper, which is a church ordinance, and is to be observed only by members of a local Baptist church, using as elements unleavened bread and wine.

Teach them to be good stewards and to bring all the tithes into the store house. Teach them to live lives that will glorify the Lord in being witnesses for Him.

Teach them to be steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

### IV

To preach repentance and evangelism.

First, let us notice he is talking to a New Testament church. We do not find any place in the New Testament where any one has the authority to preach but a New Testament church. Let us notice some more Scripture that teaches church authority. Read John 20:19-21.

Jesus is speaking to His church. Verses 19-21 says: "Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and said unto them, Peace be unto you. And when he had so said, he shewed unto them His hands and His side. Then were the disciples glad when they saw the

Lord. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you, as my father hath sent me, even so send I you."

In these three verses we see the Lord's church assembled in the upper room. We see the Lord making His presence known, and saying "Peace be unto you." Then He said in verse 21, "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."

Here is the commission to go preach and teach. We also see this in Mt. 28:19-20. Jesus tells us in John 4:35-36 that we are to get a vision of the need of preaching the gospel as the fields are white already to harvest. We are to preach the gospel to every creature as we have the promise that the elect will be saved.

Paul said in II Tim. 2:10, "There fore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they might also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory."

In Acts 13:48 we read "As many as

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- YOUR PRAYERS
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ARE WE ASKING FOR TOO MUCH?

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were ordained to eternal life believed."

We see church authority in sending out missionaries in Acts 13:1-2. This was a local church at Antioch — independent and sovereign in all ways.

God has set some men in the church for special jobs. The Holy Spirit is God's instrument in calling the men, and He said to the church at Antioch, "Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them."

We see the Spirit calling the church, being God's means of giving authority and sending them out. So we see God works only through His churches — no Mission Boards are involved — only local Church authority.

We see also in the 8th Chapter of Acts where Phillip was sent to the desert to preach to the eunuchs. Phillip was sent under church authority from Jerusalem. We notice in vs. 8 that we are His witnesses. In every community where there is a sound Missionary Baptist Church that is God's witness. May the Lord bless you.

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