

The Baptist Examiner

Baptist Is Our Middle Name

Paid Circulation In All States And In Many Foreign Countries

"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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WHOLE NUMBER 2009

A STRANGE GOD

By RAY HIATT
Hazard, Kentucky

(This message was originally preached on the "MESSAGE OF GRACE" television program, Channel 57, WKYH-TV, NBC, Hazard, Kentucky).

"... he seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods..." (Acts 17:18).

It must not be thought that these heathen philosophers were offering deliberate insult to Paul's God. They spoke quite truthfully when they said He was a "strange" (Gr. Xenos) God to them. Thus it was and thus it is. Is not our God considered "strange" by the world?

Where in the world is the God of the Bible not counted "strange?" Does the world receive Him and honor Him in the fullness of His attributes? I think not. Paul preached a "strange" God. This led to his discomfort in many a far-flung outpost of the Roman world. There was no scarcity of gods in the Roman Empire. However, the gods of the Roman and Hellenist were always rather accommodating. They were never considered "strange," only amenable. When men's gods accede to the desires of their flesh and mind

they could never be considered "strange."

Our God is considered strange because of HIS UNIQUE ONENESS. "One body... one Spirit... one hope... one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father," is not an abstract myth but the very intrinsic nature of God. God cannot be divided in His



PASTOR RAY HIATT

TWO-PART STUDY OF THE

PASTOR OF THE CHURCH

By FRANK B. BECK
(Now in Mansions On High)

PART I

Scripture reading — I Timothy 3:1-7, 14:16; Titus 1; I Peter 5:1-4; Jeremiah 23:1-6; Ezekiel 34.

I want to speak to you this morning on the subject of PASTORS. I want you to consider their PREPARATION, and their POSI-



FRANK B. BECK

TION; and later on, their PERSON.

I. PREPARATION.

First, I want you to think of the PREPARATION of a pastor. How are pastors made? "None but He Who made the World can make a minister of the gospel" (John Newton). Pastors must receive a Divine call. They must be called of God! This is true of all of God's

servants. "And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but that is CALLED OF GOD, as was Aaron" (Hebrews 5:4). So also Paul was "called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God..." (I Corinthians 1:1).

This Divine call comes from God before we even exist, as it did with the Prophet Jeremiah. To him God said: "BEFORE I FORMED thee in the belly I knew thee; and BEFORE THOU CAMEST FORTH OUT OF THE WOMB, I sanctified thee and I ORDAINED thee a prophet unto the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5).

This call into the ministry, how does it come to men?

By the power of the Holy Spirit, the call to preach comes by the WORD OF GOD. In this manner Christ called His twelve disciples. With His mouth and voice He called them (Mark 3:13-14). By His Word He will call you. He will burn those words: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15); or words like them, into the depths of your heart. You will not be able to get away from them. Day and night you will hear that inner voice saying: "Go!"

The call to preach also comes through WILLINGNESS. Though you may argue against the call of God as artfully as did Moses (Exodus 3-4), yet you will find that God is working in you both to WILL and to DO of His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13); and the desire to preach and pastor increases, until, like the Apostle Paul you say: "NECESSITY IS LAID UPON ME, YEA, WOE IS (Continued on page 6, column 4)

will, His purpose, His decrees, His desires or His attributes. The Trinity of the Godhead, while three persons, is yet manifestly ONE. In stating that "a house divided against itself cannot stand," Christ declared an elementary axiom which nevertheless has flown far over the heads of the enlightened gentlemen who occupy the seats (Continued on page 6, column 1)

Pinehaven Church Announces Spring Bible Conference

"THE UNITY OF THE FAITH" will be the theme of the Sixth Annual Bible Conference of the Pinehaven Baptist Church located on Highway 69 South in Columbus, Mississippi, March 18, 19 and 20, 1975.

Pastor Elvis Gregory has announced that there will be three sessions each day, with a total of twenty-one messages during the course of the conference by twenty-one different Independent Baptist preachers.

The church will provide food and lodging for all out-of-town guests. Write them today and place your reservation, so you can enjoy the fellowship of this great church's conference.

"THE SMOKER'S LAMENT"

I trusted the Lord, accepted His Son,
Then quit my vile habits, all except one.
I felt that a Christian should clean up his life,
Abstain from all worldliness, wickedness, strife.
So I quit playing cards, gave up my beer;
Quit gambling and dancing in less than a year.

I conquered all these, but one lingered yet
I can't seem to master that vile cigarette.
I thought many times I'd just taper off,
And maybe get rid of that ominous cough.
So I tapered and suffered but always came back
From two smokes a day to the usual pack.
I tried all the filters the poison to purge
But they all seemed to sharpen that nicotine urge.
Cigarettes are my master; I yield as a slave,
I'll never be free till I land in the

grave.
What they cost me in money can't compare with my health,
For life's of more value than all of the wealth.

My lungs are congested, my heart-beat is slow
I've tried to quit smoking, but one thing I know—
I'm a slave to old "NICK" drinking life's bitter cup,
But I cannot somehow give my cigarettes up.
The curses attend me, they're not just a few
The children I influence are smoking them, too!

Butts in the ashtray, table and sink—
Every room in my house is beginning to stink.
Betty and Tommy and Susie and Jack,
Each of them daily are smoking a pack.
This "innocent" habit is keeping me broke,
Family prayers are impossible in cigarette smoke!

—David A. Beam

PART VI . . .

MESSAGE OF MISSIONS

By MILBURN COCKRELL
Fulton, Mississippi

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15-16).

Here are the marching orders of the Lord's church. She is to go and preach to every human creature who is capable of receiving the gospel. It is to be preached in all places, to all persons, in all generations. It is the business of the church to send the glad tidings up and down the world.

But what message shall the missionary carry? What truths in the Scriptures will be used by God to make disciples? What shall the heralds of the way of salvation cry to his hearers? What certain sound shall the gospel trumpet players make?

THE GOSPEL

The text indicates that the church is to preach the gospel. But just what is the gospel? To the Corinthians Paul wrote: "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand. By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (I Cor. 15:1-4). Here we see that the gospel is the good news about salvation

by faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. It is an announcement of the good things that God has done in the person of Christ.

The gospel is God's power unto salvation: "For I am not ashamed



ELD. MILBURN COCKRELL

of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Rom. 1:16). God's power is terrible in nature and providence, but in the gospel it is His saving power. In I Corinthians 15 Paul speaks of "the gospel through which ye are saved." The gospel (Continued on page 4, column 3)

MEADOWVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, VIRGINIA BEGINS NEW BUILDING

Deacon Paul Chapman of the Meadowview Baptist Church, Route 2, Box 190A, Meadowview, Virginia 24361 writes concerning the building of a church in that area.

At present, there are twenty members in this church and they have been meeting in the pastor's home, Elder J. D. Wishon. The Lord is seemingly blessing this work, and in view of their continued growth, they are announcing plans to build a new edifice for the glory of God in that community.

Deacon Chapman has donated an acre of ground to build on and the grading and excavation has been finished. As soon as the weather breaks and funds become available, they plan to start construction. If any of our readers in this area would like to help this young church, write Brother Paul Chapman, for further information and details.

JOHNSON CITY, TENN. MISSION SUPPORTS US WITH NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS

Brother Edmond Dempsey of 515 North Gilmer Park, Johnson City, Tennessee writes that the new mission there has voted to send at least six new subscriptions each month as a missionary project of their work.

The mission there is operating under authority of the Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Oneco, Florida of which Elder Howard Shepard is the pastor.

It is a joy to commend this mission and I would urge our friends in this area to visit with them at any time that God might make such possible.

Editor's Note: Wouldn't it be wonderful, if all missions and churches would "Go thou and do likewise."

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Willard Pyle

"IN THE MIDST"

(PREACHED NOVEMBER 26, 1974 AT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH)

Now tonight, if you would turn in your Bibles to Revelation, we will start at the end and go backwards. Usually, I am accused of preaching from Genesis to Revelation, but we will start tonight in Revelation and see how much we can work our way backward.

We are preaching on the subject, "In The Midst," and I believe if we really have a revival, it will be because Jesus Christ is in the midst. I feel like tonight, this is what is lacking in many Baptist

churches — Jesus Christ is not in the midst.

Notice what it says in Rev. 1:10: "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day."

Now notice that it does not say that we cannot be in the Spirit every day. But particularly, John says:

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet."

I would like to inject here that unless we are in the Spirit, we just

will not hear the message that God has for us. It doesn't matter who is preaching, it doesn't matter what they say — if we are not in the Spirit, our hearts just will not ascertain what the Word of God has to say. So we need to pray that God will cause us to acknowledge our sins and be in fellowship with Him, that we might be in the Spirit.

He said:

"I heard a voice as of a trumpet, saying, I am Alpha and Omega." (Continued on page 2, column 1)

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JOHN R. GILPIN, Jr. Editor (Temporary)

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"In The Midst"

(Continued from page one)

How wonderful that is! "The first and the last." And I might say here, He is all in between. He is not only the beginning and the ending, but He is everything in between. Not only the first letter in the alphabet and the last letter of the alphabet, but He is every other letter also. Jesus Christ is Lord over all, to the glory of God the Father.

Now He says:
"What thou seest, write in a book."

Specifically, not what you think, or what you imagine, or what you dream up, but, "what you see, you write in a book and send it unto the seven churches which are in the United States, unto Chesapeake, unto Lawtey, Florida, unto Kings Addition."

You say, "Well, that is not in the original."

Well, I realize that, but most people think that God wrote the Book to somebody else. This is written unto Baptist churches in our day and time, just as much as the churches that He enumerates here. God wrote specifically unto seven, particular, individual churches, and I believe there are still churches of that calibre in the world. I believe there are sound Missionary Baptist Churches that qualify as churches today. I recognize that these churches have their faults and failures just like the churches today, but that did not disqualify them. They needed to be corrected, just like many times we need to be corrected. But there are churches in the world, and have been churches in this world, since Jesus Christ established the first one, and there shall be until the Lord Jesus Christ steps out and says:

"Come up hither."
If you want to find a Missionary Baptist Church that is true to the Word of God in the world, I believe you can find it, because God says that they will be in the world,

The straight and narrow path has not yet developed enough traffic to require a four-lane highway.

so you "Write this unto the churches which are in Asia." Then He enumerates them.

And then, in verse 12:
"And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks."

They were all of like faith and order. There wasn't one silver and one gold and one brass and one wood. They were all seven golden candlesticks. And churches have to be of that calibre to qualify.

"And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot."

Beloved, I want you to notice that Jesus Christ, the Lord of Glory, is living in the midst of His churches. He is well acquainted with what is going on, not only in Calvary Baptist Church, but in every other church of the Lord Jesus Christ in this world. And Jesus Christ is in the midst and that makes all the difference in the world, for without the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, the seven golden candlesticks would be without any light whatsoever. We could not shine for God's honor and glory. We could not live for His glory. We need Jesus Christ in the midst, or the candlestick will be removed. We need Him.

Now we need to discover, or to realize, I should say, that if the church in this place is one of the Lord's churches, and we certainly believe that it is, then Jesus Christ is in the midst, and that is what makes a church worthwhile. It is the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. So, let us look at Christ.

"In the midst of the seven golden candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and His eyes were as a flame of fire, and His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and His voice as the sound of many waters. And He had in His right hand seven stars: and out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and His countenance was as the sun shineth in His strength. And when I saw Him . . ."

Oh, let me tell you, the thing that makes a true Missionary Baptist is this very fact:

"When I saw Him."
When a man sees the Lord Jesus Christ, his whole life is transformed. He is changed in that moment. John says, "When I saw Him." And I hope that you can see the Lord Jesus Christ.
"And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and death."

We want to emphasize that Jesus Christ is to have the pre-eminence in our individual lives. He is to have the pre-eminence in the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ.

And I might ask you, on what is the spotlight focusing? On what does the spotlight of this church focus? We need to consider that tonight. You know when they have

their plays and whatever they have, they have their spotlight and it shines on the center attraction. And if our spotlight is not shining on the Lord Jesus Christ; if we are not like the golden candlestick in the tabernacle; if we are not shining to reveal Jesus Christ in our midst, then we have missed our calling as Baptist churches. Jesus Christ is to have the pre-eminence in our services.

So I ask you, does Christ have the pre-eminence in all things? There can only be one that sets on the throne of our hearts, and can only be one that has the pre-eminence. Is it self, or is it the Lord Jesus Christ who has the pre-eminence in our lives? Who has the pre-eminence in our services? Are our messages, methods, and manners pointing people to the Lord Jesus Christ?

You contemplate the messages that you hear. You contemplate the methods that are being used, tonight. You contemplate the mannerisms that we have as we live in this world. Do they point people to the Lord Jesus Christ?

The Word of God says when He is come "He shall testify of Me." I hear people talking about being filled with the Spirit. I hear them wrongly say they have been baptized by the Spirit. Then, I see them do all kind of things contrary to the Word of God. And I want to remind you, if you are full of the Holy Spirit, you are going to be testifying of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of Glory.

It is not how many things you can handle, it is not how high you can jump, it is not how fast you run, it is whether you are lifting up Jesus Christ. That determines to me, and I believe, is determined by the Word of God, if the Spir-



Dear John and Staff,

We still enjoy the Baptist Examiner every week and we are so glad to be blessed by having such a wonderful paper coming to our home each week.

We are both elderly (81 & 75) and don't have much, but we will send all that we can. Pray for us as we pray for you.

The Abbott's
Arkansas

Dear Bro. Gilpin, Jr.

Enclosed check is for the on-going of your fine Christian work. Use it where it is needed most. (TBE always needs the most). I pray that you will soon find a pastor and I'm confident the Lord will send you whom He wants you to have.

Mrs. Clyde McDonald
Ohio

Dear Brother,

We are thinking and praying much for you, knowing the situation that you are in is a hard one, but we also believe that you have many good friends who will assist you in every way possible. Take heart and may God's Grace be sufficient. May He strengthen and comfort you, is our sincere prayer.

The Curries
Maine

Dear Bro. John, Jr.

How glad I am that TBE is still coming and that you are editing the paper. I know that you are finding the extra responsibility rugged, but you are doing a fine job and I feel our precious Lord is well pleased. May TBE continue until He comes is my prayer.

Mrs. Opal Sawhill
Idaho

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
MARCH 8, 1975
PAGE TWO

WE SALUTE THIS MARYLAND CHURCH



SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
6312 Riverdale Road — Riverdale, Maryland

W. DALE FISHER, Pastor

It is a real pleasure to present this Maryland church to our readers, as we consider it to be the sole Independent Sovereign Grace voice in the metropolitan area of Washington, D.C.

Since 1957, when Brother Fisher and his lovely wife, were still living in Illinois, they have been friends and supporters of our work, having sent in numerous subscriptions, attended Bible conferences and have contributed monthly to the on-going of The Baptist Examiner.

Anyone in the District of Columbia area, who is looking for a sound church, where the truth is upheld by a consecrated man of God, will find a warm and cordial welcome extended here. It is a joy to commend this church and her fine pastor, Brother Fisher, and I would urge our friends in this area to visit with them at any time that God might make such possible.

it of God lives in your heart. "He shall testify of Me." And when the Holy Spirit came and took up His abode in His disciples, you find them talking about, as we will see in our message, Jesus Christ. And He had the pre-eminence.

The Word of God says:
"To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive the remission of sins"—Acts 10:43.

If you want to evaluate this preacher, you should evaluate me by the same means. If you want to evaluate Bro. Massey, Bro. Everman, Bro. Sherman, Bro. Gilpin, and these other brethren, if you want to evaluate them, you listen to their message.

"To Him give all the prophets witness."

I tell you, you can evaluate a preacher in about three minutes if you listen to his message. Does he exalt and magnify and lift up the Lord Jesus Christ? That is the criteria for me when I listen to a Baptist preacher.

Notice again, the Word of God says,

"Ye shall be witnesses unto Me in Judea, and Samaria, and Jerusalem, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth."

Beloved, Jesus said that His disciples would be witnesses unto Him. If that is true today, and I believe it is if we are true disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of God says:

"You go into all the world and preach the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ."

I wonder tonight, if Jesus Christ has the pre-eminence.

The Word of God further says, "They took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus."

I wonder how people look at us tonight. Do they take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus Christ? Oh, how vital that is! Do our methods and our manners show that we have been with Jesus Christ? When you have been with Christ, you talk like Him; when you have been with Christ, you work like He worked; when you have been with Christ, you worship like He worshipped; when you have been with Christ, you do the things that Christ did. That is the test of whether we have been with Christ or not — do we act like Jesus Christ?

In our final consummation, the Bible says, that we shall be conformed unto His image — soul, body and spirit. Beloved, I believe even tonight, that we ought to magnify the image of Jesus Christ in this world — we need to lift Him up.

Then, do our methods, (this needs to be emphasized in our day and time) do they magnify Christ?

Hebrews 8:5 says:

"Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith He, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount."

Baptist churches better get back into the mount and listen to the (Continued on page 3, column 1)



THE TABERNACLE, PRIESTHOOD AND OFFERINGS

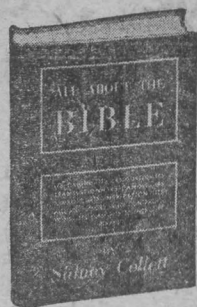
By
L. M. HALDEMAN

408 Pages

\$6.50

This is the best book we have ever read on the Tabernacle. It exalts the substitutionary, sacrificial work of Christ as that to which the Tabernacle system pointed. On nearly every page, our attention is called to something which typifies the work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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ALL ABOUT THE BIBLE

By
SIDNEY COLLETT

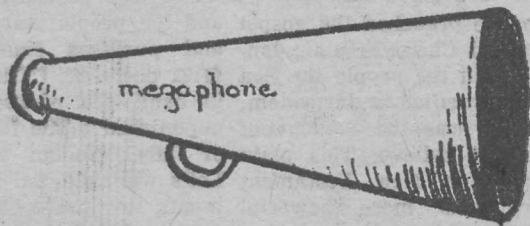
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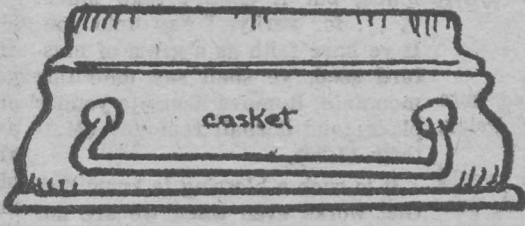
"COME unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."
—MATTHEW 11:28

"SEEK YE the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near."
—ISAIAH 55:6

"WHOSOEVER WILL, let him take the water of life freely." — REVELATION 22:17b

"LOOK unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." — ISAIAH 45:22.

"But as many as RECEIVED him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God."
—JOHN 1:12



INABILITY

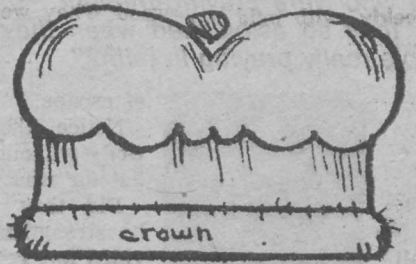
"No man CAN come to me . . ."
—JOHN 6:44,65

"There is NONE that seeketh after God."
—ROMANS 3:11b

"So then it is NOT of him that willeth . . ."
—ROMANS 9:16a

"Except a man be born again, he CAN-NOT SEE the kingdom of God."
—JOHN 3:3

"But the natural man RECEIVETH NOT the things of the Spirit of God . . ."
—I CORINTHIANS 2:14



SOVEREIGNTY

"Except the Father which hath sent me DRAW him: and I will raise him up at the last day." — JOHN 6:44.

"I was FOUND of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me." — ROMANS 10:20

"Thy people SHALL be willing in the day of thy power." — PSALM 110:3.

"The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest . . . SEE that Just One."
—ACTS 22:14

"As many as received him . . . were BORN OF GOD." — JOHN 1:12,13.

THIS CHART IS BASED ON J. I. PACKER'S BOOK, "EVANGELISM AND THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD"

"In The Midst"

(Continued from page two)

Head of the Church, the Lord Jesus Christ. God didn't say,

"Now, Moses, how do you think we ought to build this tabernacle? What kind of material do you think we should use? What kind of a program do you think we should put on in this tabernacle?"

Beloved, He didn't ask Moses a thing about it. He said, "Now Moses, you can be careful that you make all things according to the pattern shewed to you in the mount."

We need to be like that in Baptist Churches. Does it make a difference how we carry the ark? Because you had better believe it makes a difference how we carry the ark. One man thought it didn't matter whether he obeyed God or not, and his life was taken out of this world. You better be careful how you carry the ark of the covenant — the Lord Jesus Christ. You just don't do it any old way, or haphazardly. We had better work like God said to work in this day and time. It's vital that we lift Him up in the world.

I remember what Paul said: "I am with you in the spirit." A lot of people use this: "Preacher, I can't be there tonight, I'll be with you in spirit." Now, that doesn't have a thing to do with this. I get a little edgy when I preach to spirits. I like to see you in body, unless you are providentially hindered.

Paul said, "I am with you in the spirit, beholding your order."

It is vital what you are doing, Paul said, and I am with you so to speak, watching what you are doing. Now that is vital, but the Lord Jesus Christ is higher than the Apostle Paul was, even though the Apostle Paul represented Christ in this world. Jesus Christ is beholding our order. He is beholding our daily conversation individually, and He's looking at the churches tonight, examining their order.

The Word of God says, "Let all things be done decently and in order."

So, it does make a difference, and it will help determine whether or not Christ is pre-empted in our churches. Is Christ higher than the heavens to us?

Look at Hebrews 7:26:

"For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens."

Oh, how great, how marvelous, how wonderful, how exalted the

Lord Jesus Christ is!

God says,

"I have given Him a Name above every name and at the Name of Jesus, every knee should bow, and every tongue should confess that Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father."

God has magnified the Lord Jesus Christ. Is He our all in all? Is He outshining all others?

Paul said,

"I saw a light from Heaven, above the brightness of the sun."

No one is brighter than that, so we need to exalt Him. Is He precious in our lives?

Now if this is not true, the ministry of the churches is lopsided and out of round. A while back, I noticed my car was jumping up and down on the road and they said, "Your tires are out of round." I said, "I certainly don't know what all that means, but I know it is bad." Well, I want to tell you, there are a lot of churches today that are out of round; they are out of focus. Jesus Christ is not the hub, He is not the center, and they are bouncing down the road because Jesus Christ is not in the middle. If you want to keep this church straight, you just keep Jesus Christ right in the center — you don't go to the right or left, you stay right in the middle. I don't mean compromise, but you keep Jesus Christ the center of the compass. You make Him the guiding pole to go by.

Too many times, Jesus Christ is either crowded out completely, or He is pushed on the out-skirts. Jesus Christ stood at the door and knocked in the Book of Revelation; not to a lost sinner, but He stood there at the church. Why? because it had become so backslidden because Jesus Christ was no longer the center of that church. How sad it is that Jesus Christ, in this day, is on the outside of most Baptist Churches and knocking to get in! Now I'm not saying He is powerless, but I'm saying He did that to show how far backslidden Baptists could get in the world. We need to be careful about our ministry. Too many times we see more of the preacher than we do Jesus Christ. I think about that passage in I Cor. 3:3,4:

"For ye are yet carnal: For whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?"

Why do they walk as men? Verse 4:

"For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos;

are ye not carnal?"

I tell you what, I'm spiritual because I am of Paul — he's the main person! Someone else says, "Now wait a minute, here, I am of Apollos — he is the one to go by." Another one said, "I am of Cephas." I tell you, I wonder who is the main one in the church? I believe if Bro. Gilpin could say tonight, he would say, the Lord Jesus Christ. He didn't get up here and say, "Look at Bro. Gilpin!" When a preacher points more to himself than he does Jesus Christ, there is something wrong. And Baptist preachers today are getting more converts to themselves than they are to the Lord Jesus Christ. We are building churches around ourselves and we say, "I wonder what is wrong with the churches?" I'll tell you what, we have got

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preacher religion today and when the preacher is gone, your religion is gone. I used to find that in other denominations, but Baptists are about as bad.

I remember one time when I was going to a Nazarene church, someone said, "Oh, I don't know what to do, our Pastor is going to leave and I just don't know what I'll do when he leaves!" Oh, how they carried on! I thought Jesus had died! Oh, listen to me, if Willard Pyle is gone, that's alright; if Bro. Gilpin goes home to glory, that's alright. Who gets the glory? Jesus Christ should have the pre-eminence in our churches. That is what we need to preach today — the Lord Jesus Christ.

So I ask you tonight in the beginning of this message, are you looking unto Jesus? Are you looking unto the Lord Jesus Christ? Are you beholding the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world? Are you considering the

High Priest of our profession, the Lord Jesus Christ? Is He the center of your life tonight? Can you say, I am looking unto Jesus tonight? If you can say that, then let me ask you secondly, are you pointing others to the Lord Jesus Christ? How vital that is! How serious that is! Can we say with the Apostle Paul, "I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ." Then, he emphasized, "and Him crucified." He didn't say all he preached was the death of Christ, but he said I believe that Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God that was slain. He preached the Lord Jesus Christ!

Briefly tonight, let me give you some thoughts in this message and you add on to the skeleton that I shall give you.

Notice first of all, Christ has the pre-eminence in the entirety of the Word of God. Let that sink in. Christ has the pre-eminence in all of this Book. Someone says, "I just read the New Testament because that tells about Jesus." Well, it does tell about Jesus, but the Bible was written to unveil the Lord Jesus Christ. He has the pre-eminence.

Listen to what the Word of God says:

"They are they . . ." (Jesus talking about the Scriptures), "They are they which testify of Me."

Referring primarily to the Old Testament, because the New Testament was not penned at that time.

Listen again, Jesus said, "Moses wrote of Me." Oh, how true that is!

The Word of God says further: "Beginning at Moses and all the prophets." Now that is vital.

We have got a lot of brain-washed heretics running over the country saying: "The first five books of the Bible aren't in there."

Beloved, Jesus said: "Moses wrote of Me."

I'll take His word over these brain-washed heretics. Jesus Christ was preached and written about by Moses in the Old Testament. The Word of God says:

"Beginning at the same Scripture, he preached unto him Jesus." This was talking about the writings of Isaiah.

I want to say that Jesus is the center of the whole Bible. You can't open this Book, but that Jesus Christ is present there. You can't read about all the examples and types and pictures of the Old Testament, without realizing they all point to the same Person — they are all written to unveil the Lord

in His glory. The Bible reveals the Lord Jesus Christ and Him crucified from Genesis throughout the Book of Revelation. From Genesis the first chapter, and even through the whole Bible, Jesus Christ is seen over and over again, and Jesus Christ is unveiled.

Then notice that Jesus Christ is certainly the center of the New Testament. The New Testament preachers magnify the Lord Jesus Christ.

Notice these Scriptures: Acts 2:22, 23. Listen, on the day of Pentecost, see what they preached:

"Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by Him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain."

Peter said, "Look at the Lord Jesus Christ." What was the main thing on the day of Pentecost? It was not the Holy Spirit. It was not the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God came to magnify the Lord Jesus Christ. And when the Spirit of God came, they talked about the wonderful works of God. And Peter said, "Look at the Lord Jesus Christ." He was full of the Spirit.

Notice again in the 36th verse of this chapter:

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Notice again in Acts 4:1, 2:

"And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead."

What were they mad about? They were mad because they were preaching Jesus Christ as the resurrected One. They were preaching the Lord Jesus Christ.

Notice in the Book of Acts again, the 4th chapter and verse 33:

"And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all."

Now we could go through all the (Continued on page 5, column 2)

The Baptist Examiner Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT TO:

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"In Acts 12, when God released Simon Peter from prison, the people who were praying thought that Rhoda was crazy. Why were they so astonished when they saw Peter? Were those people really praying in faith?"

E. G. COOK

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



It would be very easy to say these people were not really praying in faith. But it would be awfully hard to prove that statement. Let us remember, they had witnessed the stoning of that great man of God, Stephen. And soon after that, they had seen James slain with the sword. Could it be that they had no reason to think God would intervene in the case of Peter? So how do we know just what they were praying for?

If they were resigned to the fact that God was going to permit Peter to follow Stephen and James to martyrdom, could it be they were praying that he might be given the necessary grace to help him face the stones or the sword? On the other hand, if they were just praying that God's will might be accomplished in Peter's life, it could just well be that they were praying a prayer of faith. It is my contention that God just went so far beyond what they expected in answering their prayer that they were astonished. I feel sure that many of you have experienced similar experiences to theirs, in that God went even beyond what you really expected.

I see no reason to believe these people were not praying in faith. The circumstance under which they were praying would seem to eliminate any thought on their part to pray any other than a prayer of faith. So, since there is just no way for us to know just exactly what these people were praying for, let's be fair with them and give them the benefit of any doubt in the matter.

PAUL TIBER

PASTOR,
NEW TESTAMENT
BAPTIST CHURCH
1643 Lee Road
Cleveland Heights,
Ohio



Consider the circumstances of Peter's imprisonment. He was closely guarded by four groups of four soldiers in each group. (Acts 12:4). He was double chained between two of the soldiers (Acts 12:6), and was locked with them in the innermost part of the prison. (Acts 12:10).

Now, the conditions under which Peter was prisoner were, obviously, not conducive to cause one to think that there was any possibility

of escape.

Notice, the church prayed unto God, without ceasing, for Peter, but for what did they pray?

Did they pray that he would be strengthened, encouraged, provided for, released or escape? The text does not provide the answer. It is reasonable to assume, however, that the last thing the church expected was Peter's escape. (12:15).

They were astonished when they saw Peter, because they weren't expecting that particular result.

Were they praying in faith? Of course they were. Faith is believing that all things will be worked out for our good.

God answers prayer according to His own will. His will is always to work out things for our good. (Read Romans 8:28-39).

We need to learn that what we desire may not be for our good. When we pray our own desires, we pray amiss, and the result is different from the expectation. When we pray effectively, we are merely the vehicle used by God's Holy Spirit. (Rom. 8:24-27).

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." — James 5:16.



JAMES HOBBS

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

Many times I have read this passage and tried to put myself in the room with these people. I have tried to imagine what could have gone through their minds at this time. Whenever I do this and find myself trying to judge other people's actions, I find it hard to do so. You see, it's not my place (or yours) to condemn or even try to explain other people's actions.

I wonder how many times you or I have prayed for something and then been a little surprised when the Lord answers our prayers. We must remember that we are not told just exactly what they were asking in their prayers. We assume that they were praying for Peter's release, but it doesn't say that they were. They may have just been praying for God to take care of him.

Obviously, they should not have been so surprised when God released him, but God speaks to us in truth, therefore He tells us that they were astonished. When I read such passages as this I am made to realize that God works in spite of our weaknesses.

You ask if they were praying in faith. I cannot answer that if you are asking how much faith. No man can say how much faith another person has. We can say, that

these people were praying in faith, however. It may not have been much, but it doesn't take much. "... for verily, I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove" (Matthew 17:20).

It is such a blessing to know that God works even when we are not what we ought to be.



ROY MASON

RADIO MINISTER
BAPTIST PREACHER
Aripeka, Florida

I don't believe that those people were praying with the faith that they should have had, and such is true in many, many cases where prayer is offered today. In my judgment, the weekly prayer meeting of many churches, amounts to little. Many pastors talk about "much prayer," but don't expect anything much to happen in answer to prayer.

I recall quite vividly the first prayer meeting I attended when I became pastor of a certain church. I found no written requests for prayer on the pulpit, and when I asked if there were any special requests, no one said anything. I said, "If we have nothing to pray about, we had just as well go home. Let us stand and Bro. so and so, will you please dismiss us?" A very shocked bunch of people left that church, but next week we sure had plenty of definite requests for prayer. I proposed that we run our church on prayer — that we cut out all financial pledges, and that we pray for the Lord to provide for our financial needs. The church looked at me as if I had gone crazy, but they voted to try it. I was pastor of that church for thirty years, and we always had plenty of money to cover our needs. We had many miracles in answer to prayer. We built several times, and never even took an offering for building purposes. In answer to prayer, money came in to cover all building expenses. Our prayer meeting grew until we had from three to five hundred in attendance. We had astonishing cases of people healed in answer to prayer. It was the continual evidence of answered prayer that caused so many to attend prayer meeting. We never had church organizations taking over prayer meeting. We had definite prayer and the study of God's Word coupled with reports on answered prayer.

Yes, I am very much afraid that those people who were praying for Peter, were not expecting anything much to happen in answer, for when Rhoda heard Peter's voice, she was so astonished that she didn't even open the door and let him in, and when she told the others they called her crazy.

We will all be helped, if before we pray, we stop and ask ourselves, "Do I really believe that God can and will answer this prayer?"



Message Of Missions

(Continued from page one)
is the Almighty Arm of the Lord rescuing men from sin, the wrath of God, spiritual death, and perdition. What an encouragement

this is to the weak human agents who proclaim it to a dying world! That great first century missionary, the Apostle Paul, said: "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Cor. 1:17-18).

The Apostle preached the gospel of a crucified Christ in plain language. He told the people the Son of God was crucified at Jerusalem, and that He was the Saviour of all them that believe. This plain preaching of a New Testament missionary was more powerful than all the philosophy and oratory of the heathen world. By its Divine authority and the demonstration of the Spirit, it turned the pagan world of that day upside down.

First, then we see the message of missions is a witness about the gospel, for without hearing it none can be saved. All who believe this saving message are saved without exception. Thank the Lord that "it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (I Cor. 1:21). It is the good news of salvation by a crucified Christ which saves those who believe. It is this wonderful truth which is to be proclaimed.

A PROCLAMATION OF SIN

Second, the message of missions is a communication about sin and its ruinous powers. We who are sinners saved by grace must go and tell others of their sinful disgrace. We, like the Scriptures, must give a clear testimony of the universality of sin in the human race. "There is no man that sinneth not" (I Kings 8:46). "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not" (Eccl. 7:20). "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). "But the scripture hath concluded all under sin" (Gal. 3:22).

To tell man that he is a sinner is about like telling a skunk that he stinks. Nevertheless, this is the message of the missionary. The Bible teaches that man is a sinner from his birth: "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me" (Ps. 51:5). Isaiah called man "a transgressor from the womb" (Isa. 48:8). David declared: "The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies" (Ps. 58:30). We have from birth the snares of sin in our bodies, the seed of sin in our souls, and the stain of sin upon both.

He who would carry out the Great Commission must warn men of the serious consequence of sin.

It wrongs the soul, darkens the understanding, warps the judgment, stupifies the conscience, and perverts the will. Sin enslaves a man: "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin" (John 8:34). It excludes from Heaven: "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God" (Eph. 5:5).

Heaven's messenger is to go out and tell people that God hates sin and punishes sinners. Proverbs 11:21 declares: "Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished." The flood, the Tower of Babel, Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot's wife and Calvary are monuments to prove that God will punish sin. God punishes sin with both physical and spiritual death: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezek. 18:4).

The great work of the missionary lies in the realm of making known God's offer of forgiveness to those who turn from sin. The Bible says: "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (Isa. 55:7). We are to tell sinners that Jesus Christ has power to forgive sins (Mark 2:10). We are to declare that "all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men" (Matt. 12:31). Because of the death of Jesus we are to speak to men of the forgiveness of sins in His name. Missionaries must tell of a God who is "good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy" (Ps. 86:5).

AN ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT REPENTANCE

Third, the message of missions is a testimony about the need of repentance unto life. The only account of the doctrinal content of the Great Commission mentions repentance. Luke tells us: "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:47).

The early church took the need of preaching repentance seriously. On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached repentance for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). To the men of Israel, he later said: "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." Addressing the Areopagus, Paul said: "Now God commandeth all men every where to repent" (Acts 17:30). Repentance was the theme of John the Baptist and Christ.

The modern church has forgotten to tell sinners to repent. Multitudes of misinformed people think they

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

MARCH 8, 1975

PAGE FOUR

ADAM'S RIB

WRITTEN BY A WOMAN
AND FOR WOMEN

"CARING FOR OUR OWN"

"Honour widows that are widows indeed. But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to show piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God."—I Tim. 5:3, 4.

The world would have us shove our old people into old-folks homes and forget them. They are building beautiful buildings and calling them nursing homes, retirement homes, and Sunset homes. No matter how fancy they are or how nice the folk are who run them, these places are enemies of God's people. For the Lord would have us care for our own.

The Scripture is very clear in teaching and giving examples on this subject. If the elderly have any children, they are to care for them. If there are no children, others in the family are to care for them. If there is no one, the church is to care for them. We have been brain-washed into thinking this is a terrible burden. Instead, it is a blessing and for our good. You know the saying — "One mother can care for twelve children, but twelve children cannot care for one mother." This ought not to be so with Christians.

In the household of Timothy, although he had an unsaved father, we see his mother and grandmother together teaching him. The grandmother lived in the household with him and from a child he was taught of her. So this was a long association. One can't help but wonder how much Timothy would have missed if Grandma had been put away in a home.

It was the same in Peter's household. This was probably a poor

fisherman's home. Money was no doubt scarce. Not only that, but his mother-in-law was sick. What a trial and burden this must have been! Not so. Peter loved her and was so concerned that he brought Jesus, the great Physician, to help her. What joy it must have been to witness the miracle of her healing! She was used to helping around the house and, immediately when she was made well, she busied herself again.

Ruth and Naomi is another example of caring for our own. Let us not think we can excuse ourselves because we have financial problems. Ruth was totally broke. She had no money, no home, her husband was dead, and still she clung to her mother-in-law. They lived together. Ruth worked in the fields to support both herself and Naomi. The love Ruth shows for her mother-in-law is greater than most of us show to our own mother.

It is true there are cases where the older person is mentally deranged and it is impossible to care for them at home. But these instances are rare. Most of the old folk who fill these "homes" are not difficult to handle. A large helping of love would do far more good for them than all the professional services they receive.

Then, there are those elderly who insist they would prefer to be in a home. Don't you believe it! They are simply showing more love and concern for us. They, too, have been plagued with the teaching they would be a burden to us. And because they love us, they want to spare us this problem.

Should we be given the privilege to care for our elderly loved ones, we know it would make our homes more crowded — our style of living would be altered — and it would also cost us time and money. But this does not mean it would be a trial or burden. It could be a very satisfying relationship. It would give us opportunity to show compassion, love, tenderness, kindness, patience, etc. What a wonderful school this would be! Which of us could not use more of these graces?

May it please the Lord to enable us to be obedient to His Word in this matter of caring for our own.

wonder what is wrong with our preaching. Every doctrine in the Word of God exalts Christ, and let's see that it does in our preaching.

Notice again, it says in the first chapter, verse 13:

"In Whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the Word of Truth."

Beloved, I believe in the effectual call, and it is by hearing about the Person of Jesus Christ. So we had better preach Jesus Christ. We had better point sinners to Christ. We had better tell people that Jesus Christ is the Saviour.

Now let me close this message by saying, Jesus Christ is the cent-

in the church that the Lord Jesus Christ established.

It is either Jesus Christ, or it is no salvation.

"Neither is there salvation in any other."

I ask you, in closing tonight, how do you see the Lord Jesus Christ? Peter said, "There is salvation in Christ." Can you say that, tonight? Can you say, "I know my Redeemer is alive." Have you believed in the Lord Jesus Christ?

Paul said to the jailor when he came trembling, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." I don't apologize to say

Message Of Missions

(Continued from page four)
can continue in the old sinful life, while adding Jesus Christ as a personal Hell insurance for the world to come. Churches are filled with people who have never repented. This fundamental, indispensable foundation stone of the gospel is being ignored. Many seem to have forgotten that the Saviour said: "Repent ye, and believe the gospel." (Mark 1:15).

What is repentance? It comes from the Greek word which means to have another mind (Matt. 21:28-29). The word means to reconsider, to change one's mind, or purpose, implying his disapproval and abandonment of past opinions and purposes, and the adoption of others which are different. This change in inward opinions makes a change in the outward life. Acts 26:20 makes this plain when Paul said: "Repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance" (Acts 26:20). Thus, true repentance is a change of mind which results in a change of conduct.

Nobody but a sinner can repent, and there is nothing to repent of but sin. To Simon in Acts 8:22, Peter said: "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee." Jeremiah lamented men's lack of repentance of sin by declaring: "No man repented him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done? every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the battle" (Jer. 8:6).

The essentials of Bible repentance are three in number. First, there is conviction or sin admitted. The Holy Spirit at this point convicts the sinner of his sin nature. Speaking of the Holy Spirit, Christ said: "And when he is come, he will convince the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment" (John 16:8). This brings fear of punishment, but there is no hatred of sin yet.

Second, there must be contrition or sin abhorred. Job said: "Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6). The sinner comes to hate sin. This hatred is attended with shame and confusion of face. He becomes sorrowful for his sins committed against God. David acknowledged: "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest" (Psa. 51:4).

Third, it involves confession or sin abandoned. He who does not forsake the sins he repented of has never repented. The Psalmist said: "I acknowledged my sins unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin" (Psa. 32:5). The wise man declared: "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and" (Continued on page 7, column 3)

JESUS WALKED AMONG MEN

RAY WAUGH, Sr.

Jesus walked among men, helping them see their sin;
With compassion, He gave His love;
Then, His Words He designed that the lost He might win;
Pointing them toward God's Heaven above.

Human hatred decreed that Christ hang on the cross;
Yet He died there for you and for me;
Suffering sin's bitter cost, He endured all our loss;
Broke sin's chain that He might set us free.

When our life here is o'er, Jesus waits at the door
Of God's glorious city so fair;
There we'll bask in the glow of His love evermore;
And for e'er we shall dwell with Him there.

This is God's Word divine, that He sends from on high;
A clear message of Heavenly love;
Sinful souls may believe and on Jesus rely;
And have faith for the journey above.

Jesus, the Saviour, implores you today;
He speaks the word of God's love;
Trust in Him with your heart, let Him show you the way
To His beautiful mansions above.

er of our salvation. If you are saved tonight, it is because of Jesus Christ. You evaluate your salvation on whether or not you are acquainted with Christ.

Notice in Psalm 89, that great verse about our Saviour. Psalm 89:19:

"Then Thou spakest in vision to Thy Holy One, and saidst, I have laid help upon One that is mighty."

Oh, I tell you, we need a mighty Saviour, and God says, "I have laid help upon One that is mighty."

Why am I saved? Because I have a mighty Saviour. Why am I saved? Because my Saviour did all that was necessary and I am saved because of Him. My salvation was laid on the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matt. 1:21 says:

"Thou shalt call His Name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins."

Now this has never changed. Beloved, I hear preachers get up and say they were saved in the Old Testament one way; they were saved on the day of Pentecost, up till the Spirit of God came, one way; and after the Spirit of God came, they were saved another way. Beloved, that is a lie! God saved Adam, He saved Willard Pyle, and He saved every other person in the same way. If I am saved, I was saved just like every other person is saved. If you are saved, you are saved just like every other person is saved.

I didn't say becoming a Baptist saves you. You had better be saved before you get in the Baptist Church or you won't be worth a hill of beans. You need to be saved to be a good member of a sound church. You need salvation before you get in the Lord's church, or you will never amount to anything.

Beloved, salvation is not in the church, it is in Jesus Christ. It is because I believe, not in a Baptist Church, but I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. When I was saved, He taught me the truth about the church, and I believe

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"In The Midst"

(Continued from page three)
New Testament, but time would not permit it. Jesus Christ is the center of the Word of God.

Notice fourthly, every doctrine is incomplete and lifeless without Jesus Christ.

Look at Eph. 1:3:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in Heavenly places in Christ."

That is precious. Beloved, I believe in the foreknowledge, the predestinating, the electing purpose of God. But every time you read about it, it is in Christ. It is through Christ, it is of Christ, it is because of Christ — it is Christ. Look in the first chapter of Ephesians, verse 4, where it says:

"According as He hath chosen us in Him."

Notice in verse 5: "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ."

Notice verse 6: We are "accepted in the Beloved."

Notice again, "We have redemption." In whom do we have redemption? In Christ.

Notice again that it tells us in verse 11:

"In Whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated."

Oh, beloved, the preacher that says I believe in the five points of Calvinism, or five points of Biblism, had better have Jesus Christ in the center of every one of those doctrines. Too many Baptist preachers have isolated doctrine from the Lord Jesus Christ, and they are dead and lifeless and worthless, because Christ is not in the middle of them. And we



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Strange God

(Continued from page one)
of instruction in the religious schools of this day.

These gentlemen would have us to believe that the GOD OF SOVEREIGN GRACE is the same as the god of GOOD WORKS (in all its variations). They ask us to believe what any school child knows cannot be true: that two divergent views can be made to merge without altering their essential properties. We are asked by the devout ecumenicalists to believe that the god of all Christ-rejecting religions is the same as the Jehovah set forth in the Scriptures (with only minor variations). This is the kind of logic that grade school children would laugh at and yet we are asked to ingest it palatably and declare it to be food for the soul. We reject this logic as we reject those who propagate it. We declare it to be no logic at all, but the ravings of agents of the pit. Our God is ONE with no variations, no deviation and no depreciation. Faith in His ONE Son is the ONE hope of eternal salvation. The do-gooders, the bleeding hearts and the unthinking sentimentalists of this world would have us to say that there is hope for the religious Christ rejectors of every ilk and class. We can offer no hope outside the ONE saving faith in Christ Jesus, because to do so would explicitly deny the ONENESS of God and declare that He is divided against himself.

Heathen gods have always been changeable pluralities. If the heathen tire of one god, they expediently switch to another. They court favor with all and take none too seriously. The modern expression of this feeling is when folk say "one church is just as good as another." Our God is ONE and everything He possesses is infinitely better and not "just as good" as anything man can produce. In His ONENESS He transcends the bounds that men fix for Him, and so they say He is "strange" as they "go to the church of their choice."

Our God is counted "strange" because, despite all man's evidence to the contrary, He still declares the Bible to be His Word. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God . . ." and to the spiritual eye the Book we know as the Bible has the signature of God on every word. However, this book has been subjected to the cynical eye of man and found to be lacking. Seminarians say it's impossible; geologists say it's impractical; Darwinians say it's inconceivable;

anthropologists say it's incomprehensible; free-thinkers say it's illogical; the religious world says it's inconsequential; and our most great and learned men say that it is mythological. However, Jehovah says that it is the irrefutable, infallible, and inexorable living revelation of the eternal and ALL-Mighty God. It will outlive all its critics and stand at the last as it has always stood — the written monument to the awesome greatness of God. Neither carbon tests, pseudo-theologists nor Satan's varied devices have ever succeeded in destroying it.

Man desires a new canon because he has proven the old one to be weak and wanting. Man says it is beyond doubt a collection of folklore, myth, theory and fable. In the Pentateuch Moses threw together a group of ancient legends and produced a witty history that would do to awe the superstitious heathen, but modern man knows better and scoffs. Jericho did not fall; the sun did not stand still; Jonah and the great fish were never acquainted; and Jesus never rose from the grave because He was obviously not Virgin born. This is the style of swill that emanates from even identified Baptist pulpits. It is not fit for swine mast and, yet, Bible critics dish it up with smiling faces and expect to be praised for their astuteness.

Despite all the evidence against the Bible, God has refused to withdraw one jot or tittle from circulation. It has been tried by the most brilliant of men and Mark Twain gives their summation by saying "that it contains upwards of a thousand lies," yet the "strange" God of Heaven says it's true. Where the Bible is preached in its entirety, where the Word is proclaimed unapologetically — there our God is considered very "strange" indeed.

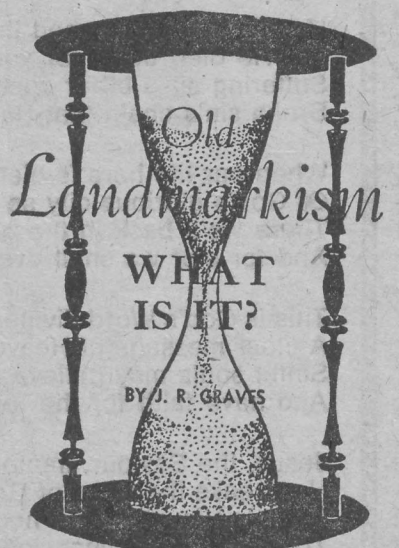
Our "strange" God has a "strange" Son. It was foretold for centuries that He would come — the Messiah, the Hope of Israel. Jewish mothers travailed with joy in the hope that their child might be the Christ. Men looked for Him with painful anxiety, but they looked too high and missed Him. Born in a stable; raised in a hill town; son of a carpenter; the friend of sinners; fishermen His companions; no throne to seat Him; no court to flatter Him; no army to defend Him; His only herald an obscure desert preacher — Christ the Messiah was scarcely what men expected. A "strange" Son indeed.

Where might you expect the Son of the Sovereign Majesty to select His friends? From among

the ranks of the mighty? Strangely, no. He spent His time among the common people and it is reported that "the common people heard Him gladly." His only steed was a borrowed animal; His last meal taken in a borrowed room; and even His tomb was not His own. He laid down His life, not for the cherubim, but for sinners — the very enemies of God. Strange? Yes, very. "strange" indeed.

This "strange" Son taught "strange" doctrine which eventually led to His death. His "strange" doctrine so angered the religionists of that day that He was cast forth as scum and crucified without the gate.

We pause to wonder and reflect. How would this "strange" Son fare today in most churches that identify themselves as "Baptist?" Would the doctrine of the "strange" Son of Nazareth fare well in identified Baptist churches of this day? I think not. Would Christ himself be well received in the bulk of



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identified Baptist churches? I think not. If this sounds extreme, let us look closer. Are words like love, temperance, holiness, self-sacrifice, election, foreknowledge, total sinfulness, dedication, etc., found to be common terms in assemblies with "Baptist" appended to their buildings? I think not.

What words are used instead, we might wonder? One hears much of decision, but very little of dedication. We hear much of "giving your heart to God," but precious little of presenting "your bodies a living sacrifice" to God. It is my contention that if Christ were to present Himself in most churches today that identify themselves as Baptist that he would be crucified afresh. Where His doctrine (teaching) is considered "strange," the Son Himself would be considered strange. Many churches which identify themselves as Baptist make a show of honoring the Bible while they devote their attention to programs, plays, parties, plans and the pompous prating of pious infidels. Where the Word has no standing, can you imagine that the "strange" Son of God would be permitted to stand?

The "strange" Son of God has some strange friends. What friend of Christ in the New Testament was not counted as a fanatic? Which ones did not receive stripes and woundings because of their adherence to Christ? Dear reader, does the world consider you to be "strange?" If not, you might have reason to wonder if you are Christ's. The friends of Christ are aliens in this world, and the world well knows it and treats them accordingly.

You need not shout your beliefs from the housetops for the world to consider you strange. Just sim-

ply follow in the steps of Christ and you will be considered "strange" enough. Just simply follow Christ, and your kinsmen, friends and neighbors will soon doubt your reason and question your sanity.

Our God is thought "strange" because He will not accept the inventions of men. "God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions," says the Preacher. Thus, he charts the course of human activity in a phrase, that for conciseness, power and depth, stands supreme as a history book in itself. Man is inventive, but he cannot rise above his nature; hence, his gods are of the flesh and of the earth. Man invents "sincere" religions as he needs them, but strangely, God fails to honor them. No people or culture have ever existed without their own particular god. Even in the barren deserts of Arabia, T. E. Lawrence tells us that "the fringes of their deserts were strewn with broken faiths." God will not blush at the White Throne Judgment when presented with the sincere inventions of men. Men are "without excuse," because "that which may be known of God is manifest IN them; for God hath showed it unto them." All of man's inventions will not purchase him one moment's respite from eternal doom. Not a pleasant picture to the flesh certainly, but strangely enough, it is an accurate one.

I close by asking, "Is your God strange to this world?" Is the Christ you worship considered to be "strange?" Are you yourself considered "strange" by this world? If so, then you find yourself in Paul's position. If not, then perhaps the hedonism of the Epicureans and the ascetic life of the Stoics is your true forte. Our God is "strange," Christ is "strange," Christ's friends are "strange," God's Bible is "strange." Where stand you, my friend? With the "strange" God of the Bible or with the philosophies of man?

The Pastor

(Continued from page one)
UNTO ME IF I PREACH NOT THE GOSPEL!" (I Corinthians 9: 16).

The call to preach also comes in the WAY of God, by His providence. You will be bound to preach! Though you may run from the call, as did Jonah (Jonah 1), in the end you will find yourself preaching.

It may take fierce storms, and even the belly of some whale, but you will preach!

The call to preach comes to make us WELL ABLE to preach. The call of God brings its own ability. "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of GOD; Who also hath MADE us able ministers of the New Testament . . ." (II Corinthians 3:5-6). When God calls a man to preach, He also gives Him the gifts he needs for such a task.

There are other things entering into the preparation of the minister of the Gospel, such as education, experience, and expense; but a God-ordained man can be a pastor WITHOUT these necessities; but he CANNOT without the call of God!

II. POSITION.

Second, consider the POSITION the pastor holds in the church of Jesus Christ.

"This order is the first in the Church, both for dignity and usefulness. The person who fills it has in Scripture different titles expressive of his various duties. As he has the OVERSIGHT of the flock of Christ, he is termed BISHOP. As he FEEDS them with spiritual food, he is termed PASTOR. As he SERVES Christ in the Church, he is termed MINISTER. As it is his duty to be GRAVE and PRUDENT and an EXAMPLE to the flock, and to GOVERN WELL in the house and kingdom of Christ, he is termed PRESBYTER, or ELDER. As he is the MESSENGER of God, he is termed ANGEL OF THE CHURCH. As he is sent to DECLARE THE WILL OF GOD to sinners and to beseech them to be RECONCILED TO GOD THROUGH CHRIST, he is termed AMBASSADOR. As he bears the GLAD TIDINGS OF SALVATION to the ignorant and perishing, he is termed EVANGELIST. As he stands to PROCLAIM the Gospel, he is called PREACHER. As he EXPOUNDS the Word, and by sound doctrine both exhorts and convinces the gainsayers, he is termed TEACHER. As he dispenses the manifold grace of God and the ORDINANCES instituted by Christ, he is termed STEWARD" (The Book of Church Order of the Presbyterian Church, 1899 ed., p. 11).

This is the position the pastor holds by Divine right in the Church.

Now, as Samuel said unto Saul as they journeyed, so let me say to you: "Stand thou still awhile, (Continued on page 7, column 5)

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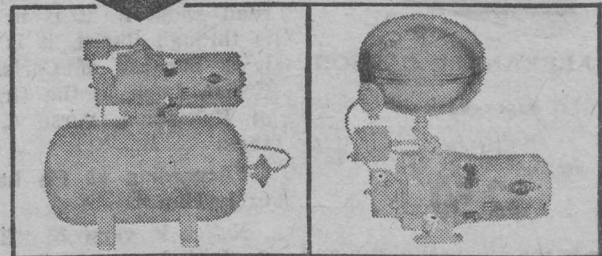
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PAGE SIX

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"WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE RELIGIOUS WORLD TODAY?"

During the month that is past, Christian Missions to the Communist world and President Richard Wurmbrand smuggled 42,000 simplified Gospels into Red China. This organization is to be commended for this. They are also to be commended for giving relief to the families of Christian martyrs in Communist countries and for seeking to convert leftists and Communists to Christ. Those of us who live where we enjoy religious freedom as a blessing from our Baptist fathers, should be better informed about the dangers of Communism.

Religious persecution is raging in much of the world today. In Afghanistan the only Christian church building has been destroyed. Church buildings are being destroyed in Libya, too. There is persecution in many other places.

The cruel dictator, Tombalbaye of Chad (Africa), has black evangelists sewn up in tombs and starves them to death, while drummers pound incessantly on the skin top. Other believers are buried up to their necks in the sand, their heads being exposed to ants. It is estimated that better than one hundred and thirty Protestant church leaders have been assassinated.

According to a report by a federally financed study in 1974, about 30 per cent of all teen-aged American girls probably have experienced pre-marital intercourse, and about a third of those have had at least one pregnancy outside of marriage.

This means that about 2.6 million teen-age girls have had premarital intercourse. Of that total, about 1.1 million have become pregnant. In nearly 850,000 of these pregnancies, the girls were not married at the time.

It was also found that 58 per cent of the females who got married while still teen-agers had experienced sexual intercourse before their wedding. Between 1.4 million and 2.3 million unmarried teen-aged girls are risking unintended pregnancy, and 60-75 per cent of them are unwilling or unable to get contraceptives.

Eleven North Carolina Baptist churches allow members transferring from other Protestant denominations to forego rebaptism by immersion. Dr. James M. Bulman of Oak Ridge introduced an amendment to the church's constitution to oust Baptist churches that do not adhere strictly to the immersion baptism doctrines. I do not know how Dr. Bulman's proposal came out in the November '74 meeting of the North Carolina Baptist Convention, but I would hope that it was passed.

Baptists in the African nation of Rwanda have grown from 1,500

in 1964 to 19,500 last year. This is a gain of 1,200 per cent.

Twelve religious colleges and universities in Arkansas have formed a cooperative council to press for financial aid from the state. They include Baptist, United Methodist, Southern Presbyterian, United Presbyterian, Churches of Christ (Harding College), and independent schools. At present, 39 states offer some form of financial support to private colleges or their students.

The Church of the Nazarene emerged in good health in 1974. She reported a world-wide membership of 608,000, a Sunday school enrollment of 1.17 million, and a college enrollment of 9,800 students in their twelve schools. Her total giving was 134.6 million which was a 10 per cent increase in per capita giving.

The All Union Council of Evangelical Christian Baptists (the Government approved church) held their convention in Russia recently. This was the first meeting in five years. Their first order of business was to send a message of greetings and congratulations reaffirming their loyalty to the Kremlin. This is not the true Baptists in Russia. It is the group controlled by the Communists. The real Baptists in Russia are underground.

Spencer W. Kimball, president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, has announced that the Mormons will not join the World Council of Churches. He stated that the WCC does not share their puritanical stand on sex, alcoholic liquors, tobacco, abortion, divorce, birth control and pornography.

Some ministers in the Church of England have issued a manifesto requesting withdrawal from the World Council of Churches. They in the manifesto accuse the WCC of "false ecumenism" based on "humanistic world fellowship and of interpreting the Gospel in socio-political terms." The manifesto also calls on the Church of England to declare its "loyalty to the historic Christian faith and its attendant values."

Ethiopia now has a one-party Communist dictatorship exactly like Russia, and it happened almost over night. It seems that every week another country goes Communist. This especially is significant since Ezekiel the prophet mentions Ethiopia as an ally of Russia in the great battle of the end time. (Ezek. 38:5).

In February a group of Russian clergy, representing many faiths,

will visit the United States. The group includes Russia Orthodox, the Church of Armenia, the Lutheran Churches of Estonia and Latvia, the Orthodox Church of Georgia, the Union Evangelical Christian Baptist, and possibly the trans-Carpathian Reformed Church and the Roman Catholic Church. Columbus, Ohio, will play host to several of the delegation from Thursday, Feb. 27 to Saturday, March 1.

We should oppose and protest the coming of all such Russian churchmen. They are wolves in sheep's clothing. The only true Christians in Russia are underground. These men are Red infiltrators seeking to destroy the American way of life.

This entire thing is under the sponsorship of the National Council of Churches. Patriarch Pimen of Moscow is coming to stay at the Waldorf Astoria, and he will probably be received at the White House. This display of Communist clergy preaching the Soviet "peace," and lying to the American public, must be challenged. If believers in Christ here in the Western world do not raise a voice against slavery and tyranny suffered by our enslaved brethren abroad, there is little hope for the future.

Message Of Missions

(Continued from page five)
forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Prov. 28:13).

The very heart cry of missionary work is to call men to repentance. God commands all men everywhere to repent, therefore let us go out and preach that men should repent. Call upon them to turn with sorrow and shame from every sin, and with cheerfulness and resolution to every duty. All men are sinners and have cause to repent. Repentance is needed now as they have continued too long in sin already. Without repentance none can be saved: "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3).

A Message About Faith

The message of missionaries is to call men to faith in Christ as man's only Saviour. Repentance and faith are inseparable graces. Repentance must always come first; otherwise, faith cannot exist. It is said of the Pharisees that they repented not afterward that they might believe in Christ (Matt. 21:32). Paul, the missionary of the church at Antioch, preached "repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21).

Faith is indispensable to pleasing God. It involves a historical belief in the facts of the Scriptures and an acceptance of the doctrines of man's sinfulness and his dependence upon God. Romans 10:17 reads: "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." It also involves trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. True faith embraces Jesus Christ as Lord, and surrender to Christ's government. Isaiah called upon men to "trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God" (Isa. 50:10).

Evangelical faith appropriates Christ as the source of pardon and spiritual life. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12). Saving faith is an act of the will and affections, as well as an act of the intellect. "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom. 10:10). Faith receives Christ as the only Lord, as the only Saviour, and as the only Mediator.

Those who truly believe on Christ will show their faith by their works. To the Galatians Paul spoke of

"faith which worketh by love" (Gal. 5:6). Good works are the natural and necessary results of faith. The best evidence that I believe a man's word is that I act upon it. The evidence of my faith in Christ is seen by my acting upon His commandments. John said: "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 John 2:2-3).

Faith is the instrumental cause of salvation. The end of faith in Christ is salvation (1 Pet. 1:9). Paul told the jailer: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31). It gives eternal life: "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life" (John 3:36). It makes us judicially righteous: "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness" (Rom. 4:5). Faith justifies: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:1). Without it no person can be saved: "He that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16).

Conclusion

Why are the churches of today not as active in getting out the message of missions as were the early churches? Why do we sit around idle all the day? Someone says: "Compassion moved the early Christians." But is heathenism less depraving, or sin less destructive, or Hell less fearful now than then? Another would say: "Zeal for the glory of Christ incited them." But are we less indebted to redeeming love than they? Still another will say: "The Spirit of God impelled and directed them." But is not that same Spirit in us and in Christ's church today? Let us go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit and preach the gospel to every creature, for it is our Lord's command.

The Bible is a book of missionary work. Those who take its

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We published a letter recently which did harm to the Landmark Baptist Church of Tucson, Arizona of which Elder Wil Bang is the fine pastor.

It was a mistake on my part and I take full responsibility for it, and may he and the church there forgive me. It will not happen again.
—J.R.G., Jr.

teachings seriously are missionaries. God has only one Son and He was a foreign missionary. The first Baptist preacher the world ever knew was a missionary. The seventy were missionaries. The eleven Apostles were missionaries. The only one who was not was Judas. All the churches in the New Testament were missionary churches.

Dear reader, have you believed the gospel? Have you repented of your sins and received Jesus Christ as a personal Saviour? If not, then as a missionary, I beseech you to "repent and believe the gospel."

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Write Brother Halliman frequently. His address is:

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Papua New Guinea.

The Pastor

(Continued from page 6)
that I may shew thee the Word of God" (1 Samuel 9:27). Here is further Bible teaching on these words, explaining the position of the pastor.

The word **bishop** means superintendent or overseer — one who watches over. "This is a true saying: If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work" (1 Timothy 3:1). The pastor is a bishop. He superintends the Church and watches over it, as one who must give account for it. (Hebrews 13:17). As Chrysostom said: "The fear of this threat continually agitates my soul." The other important Scriptural phrase that sets forth the position of the pastor is the title: pastor. The word occurs only once in the Authorized New Testament (Ephesians 4:11). It is elsewhere translated **shepherd**. (Luke 2:8, 15, 18, 20). It is used in John 10:11, where Christ says: "I am the good SHEPHERD (or, Pastor)."

Pastors rule over their churches in that they **lead** them as a shepherd does his flock. Pastors as shepherds must **feed** the flock the Word of God; and also **fleece** the flock! For this reason pastors are bidden by God: "Take heed therefore, unto yourselves and to all the flock, over which the Holy" (Continued on page 8, column 3)

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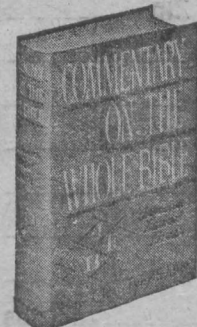
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Fifty-Four Translators

Editor's Note: Many times we receive requests for information relative to the King James Version of the Bible, its translators and what rules governed them as they went about their task. The following article gives fifteen rules they used and/or worked under. This article was prepared by Elder George L. Opolka of Troy, Illinois and is very worthwhile.

Fifty-four translators were appointed to work on the K.J.V., but only forty-seven were actually engaged in it. The following rules were composed to govern them in their labors:

1. The ordinary Bible read in the church, commonly called 'The Bishops' Bible' to be followed, and as little altered as the truth of the original will permit.

2. The names of the prophets and the Holy Writers, with the other names of the text, to be retained as high as may be, according as they were vulgarly used.

3. The old ecclesiastical words to be kept; viz: the word **church** not to be translated **congregation**, etc.

4. When a word hath divers significations, that to be kept which hath been most commonly used by the most ancient fathers, being agreeable to the propriety of the place and the analogy of the faith.

5. The division of the chapters to be altered not at all or as little as may be, if necessity so require.

6. No marginal notes at all to be affixed, but only for the explanation of the Hebrew or Greek words which cannot, without some circumlocution, so briefly and fitly be preserved in the text.

7. Such quotations of places to be originally set down as shall serve for the fit reference of one Scripture to another.

8. Every particular man of each company to take the same chapter or chapters; and having translated or amended them severally by himself where he thinketh good, all to meet together, confer what they have done, and agree for their parts what shall stand.

9. As any one company hath despatched any one book in this manner, they shall send to the rest to be considered of seriously and judiciously; for his majesty is very careful in this point.

10. If any company, upon the review of the Book so sent, doubt or differ upon any place, to send them



The Pastor

(Continued from page seven)

Ghost hath made you overseers to FEED the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28); "FEED the flock of God, which is among you, taking the oversight thereof . . ." (I Peter 5:2).

As bishop, or overseer; and as pastor, or shepherd; the pastor of the Church is to be obeyed and followed, for you are so commanded in Holy Writ. Hebrews 13:7: "Remember them which have the RULE over you, who have spoken unto you the Word of God . . ."; Hebrews 13:17: "OBEY them that have the RULE over you, and SUBMIT yourselves . . ."; "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are OVER you in the Lord, and admonish you; and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake" (I Thessalonians 5:12-13).

And above all is Jesus Christ, the good Shepherd (John 10:11); the great Shepherd (Hebrews 13:20); the chief Shepherd (I Peter 5:4); and the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls (I Peter 2:25). Amen!

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MARCH 8, 1975
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THE KEY TO TIME

Time, this word reaches and touches us all.
For we have everyone heard the mystery of its call.
There is a time to be born, but it isn't long,
Before we hear the mourning song.
What is this thing called time that overshadows us,
That drives us about in our frantic rush.
Where does this time come from, moreover, where
does it go?
Oh! Who holds this secret that we all long to know.
We all try to add time to our daily routine,
But time only grows shorter, as we have all seen.
Oh, who holds the key that unlocks the door of time,
That we may enter in and be filled with peace sublime.
You have heard it said, "A time to laugh and a time
to cry,
A time to live and a time to die."
Yes, who holds this power forever in His hands,
Who holds the key, that opens this door so grand.
The Creator of our universe, He does have this key,
That sometimes brings sorrow or laughter to both you
and me.
Yes, our Almighty God has hold of our destiny,
He holds this key of time which to us is a mystery.
But forever in control of time, our Creator shall be,
For He opens the doors of time from now, through
eternity.
So do not waste more time trying to gain another
second,
For before you know it, the Creator's call to you will
beckon.
Pray for the best use of the time He does give,
That in a Christ-like way you'll be able to live.

—BRENDA HOLLAND,
Splendora, Texas.

word thereof, note the place, and withal send the reasons; to which if they consent not, the difference to be compounded at the general meeting, which is to be of the chief persons of each company at the end of the work.

11. When any place of special obscurity is doubted of, letters to be directed by authority to send to any learned man in the land for his judgment of such a place.

12. Letters to be sent from every bishop to the rest of his clergy, admonishing them of this translation in hand, and to move and charge as many as being skillful in the tongues, and having taken pains in that kind, to send his particular observations to the company either at Westminster, Cambridge, or Oxford.

13. The directors in each company to be the deans of Westminster and Chester for that place, and the king's professors of Hebrew and Greek in either university.

14. These translations to be used

when they agree better with the text than the Bishops' Bible: Tyndale's, Matthews' (Rogers), Coverdale's, Whitchurch's (Cranmers), Geneva.

15. Besides the said directors before mentioned, three or four of the most ancient and grave divines in either of the universities, not employed in translating, to be assigned by the Vice-Chancellor, upon conference with the rest of the heads, to be overseers of the translations, as well Hebrew as Greek, for the better observation of the fourth rule as above specified."

It should be noted that the "Bishops' Bible" was a revision of the great Bible, which in turn was based on "Matthew's" rescension of Tyndale.

Dr. Krauth, one of the revisers of the K.J.V. wrote, "that because of the K.J.V., the Church of England lost many of her children . . ."

Praise God for our Bible! May Christians everywhere realize it is THE Word of God!

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