

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 2018

SALVATION IS OF THE LORD

E. G. COOK
Birmingham, Alabama

The question about what takes place when a lost person is saved, and how it is brought about is probably the most misunderstood thing in all the Bible. We have heard so many different ways set forth even by those who call themselves Baptists. Probably the most popular one of them all is what they call making a decision for Christ. We hear preachers talking about how many decisions were made during a meeting. All this sounds mighty good. It gives the preacher a big name. But is it Scriptural? Paul says in Rom. 10:10: "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness." But you and I know that decisions are made with the mind. You decide whether you will go fishing today or stay home and cut the grass. This decision originates above the ears. So do all other decisions. It is to be feared that the lake of fire will be so full of "decisionites" that there will hardly be room for those who made no decision.

Quite a few years ago, I visited a large Baptist church (so-called) in this area to hear a big name Baptist(?) preacher. When he came to his invitation he told us that he had an agreement with the Lord. He said the Lord agrees that if we will stand for Him down here, He will stand for us up there. When he said that, the pastor of the church said "Amen" at least half a dozen times before I could have said

"jack rabbit." Then he told those who wanted to be saved to stand up for the Lord. And quite a few stood up. Then, there are many other different ways presented to the lost. But if you have not already heard them you sure are particular about where you go to church. And you sure turn off the radio or the



E. G. COOK

TV when the preaching starts. So let us consider some things that at least sound Scriptural.

I know full well that I do not know all there is to be known on this subject. But I am convinced that many well-meaning Baptists do not understand some of the Scriptures that seem to be clear. Certainly, we are to preach repent-

ance. Most certainly, repentance is essential to salvation. There is absolutely no way for a person to become a child of God without it. But the important question is — What is repentance, and how is it brought about? We must also tell the lost person he must have faith. Heb. 11:6 says, "Without faith it is impossible to please Him." So there can be no salvation apart from faith in Christ. But how does the lost person come to have that faith in Christ? Then we must tell the lost person that he must believe on Christ. In Acts 16:31, Paul and Silas said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." So believing is an absolutely essential part of salvation. But how is this believing brought about?

So we see there are three things that are absolutely essential to salvation. Therefore, it behooves the Lord's servants to put forth every effort to learn just what these three things really are, what the connection between them is, if any, and just how they are brought about. Unless we know this, there is danger of telling the lost person the wrong thing. Certainly, no true servant of the Lord Jesus Christ wants to do that. So I hope to show that there can be no faith at all whatsoever until there is first repentance. And that there can be no believing until there is faith. These three things are inseparably linked together in that order. And that order cannot be altered in any way. (Continued on page 8, column 2)

AFFLICTIONS

By BERNARD (Bud) SAWYER
Jackson, Michigan

"Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word. It is good for me that I have been afflicted that I might learn Thy statutes" (Psa. 119:67 and 71). Please read Psalm 119:65-72.

As we journey through this short life, we encounter many experiences both favorable and unfavorable. Psychologists think that we are the sum total of all the experiences we have had. We are conditioned by our surroundings and we in turn make our decisions based on this conditioning. In the natural sense, this would explain corruption bringing about corruption, ignorance perpetrating ignorance, and sin begetting sin.

In the natural sense, this is very logical reasoning; but praise God, we have a Master who works in a supernatural manner. We have a Saviour capable of saving a condemned thief on a cross and assuring him of a place in paradise (Luke 23:43); of casting the devils from the demon possessed (Mark 5:13); and healing the sick (Mark 5:34).

Yes, we have a Saviour who has, and is, dealing with His people in a supernatural way. He can lift a man up from the miry pits of sin and use him. When we read of Paul's conversion in Acts 22, we see that He can create a new life (a new birth) and cleanse from sin. (See John 3:3-8 and Isa. 1:18).

As God's people venture through

this life, they are subjected to many afflictions and chastisements. We often do not understand why we are subjected to these trials, and oftentimes, I feel we murmur as the children of Israel did against Moses. We tend to think, if not express, that these things are unfair and we are undeserving of such.

The Lord deals with His people in a supernatural way. "Knowing this, that the trying of faith worketh patience" (James 1:3). And we find "we glory in tribulation also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience" (Rom. 5:3). Although we cannot always understand with our finite mind the trials and afflictions we must face and carry through this life as Satan hurls his darts at us, we can rest assured that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28).

Paul writes, "I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:11-13). With our lack of understanding, we are much better at abounding.

Each of God's people has his or her cross to bear. We pray that as we struggle with our trials and temptations that we might look to Christ for strength. Lord, help us (Continued on page 7, column 1)

ISRAEL'S TITLE DEED TO PALESTINE

By JAMES W. FRASER
Montreal, Canada

"... the Lord made a covenant with Abraham, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river of Euphrates" (Gen. 15:18).

In our geography and history books God is ignored, simply because many of their authors "knew not the Lord." In the world of learning today we have become so egotistic that God is actually ruled out of the world He created and sustains! He is ignored as the great Landlord of the whole earth!

When the Apostle Paul was addressing a heathen audience on Mars Hill, he reminded them of this basic truth when he said, "God that made the world and all things therein... He is Lord of Heaven and Earth... and hath made from one blood (or from one man, Adam) all nations of men to dwell on the face of the earth, and hath determined the time appointed (or the epochs of their history) and the bounds of their habitation (or the limits of their territory)" (Acts 17:24-26).

Also, Daniel the prophet had to remind the world monarch that the Most High ruleth in the kingdom

of men. He warned Nebuchadnezzar that he was to lose his reason and be driven from the dwellings of men, "until thou know that the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men" (Dan. 4:32).

This is the lesson our generation has forgotten! We speak about "Man and His World," his skill, his achievements and future plans, and in it all, God is forgotten!

I believe this to be the reason why so many claim that the Arabs have more right to Palestine than the Hebrew people. Also, I am aware that many who express such a view are not familiar with the fact that God gave this specific territory, and more, to the Hebrew race many, many years ago.

I have heard some accuse the Lord of being unfair because of keeping His covenant with Israel. But think it over, friend. Is He unfair? Not at all! Suppose you were the owner of a number of farms and one of your farmer-tenants, who had sound health, became lazy and allowed your arable land to become overgrown with weeds, underbrush and saplings, and neglected to drain the land so that large areas of it became sour (Continued on page 7, column 3)

SOUL WINNING AND THE SCRIPTURES

By OSCAR MINK
Crestline, Ohio

John 5:33: "... Bear witness unto the truth." Games! Gimmicks! Gadgets! Goodies! and many other "Come-ons" are being used by a great number of churches to lure people



OSCAR B. MINK

to their services. With these churches it is imperative that their Sunday School must be greater in number than the preceding week. So, they are constantly coming up with new tricks and turns to get people in for a head count. We are for people attending church (Heb. 10:25), and we are for encouraging people to attend church. It is the unrestrained means and different motives being used that we disagree with. God's means of drawing His people is nothing more or less than sound gospel

preaching and teaching. Even in this day of consummate apostasy, the gospel of Christ is not dependent on human undergirdings for success (Isa. 55:11).

Sincerity and zeal are readily and rightly admired, and are qualities which are near extinction in this day of religious sham and show. But, sincerity and zeal have not a Scriptural foundation, they are more effective for evil than an outright abuse of truth. Humanly speaking, many a soul will wake up in Hell as a result of some overly-zealous church worker that thought he was doing God a favor. When these practices are condemned by those zealous for the truth, (Continued on page 8, column 4)

HOBART, INDIANA BAPTIST CHURCH SEEKING PASTOR

Brother Carl Templeman, church clerk of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Hobart, Indiana writes asking for help in locating a pastor. They are small in number, but sound as a dollar and any one who feels led in their direction, should contact Brother Milton Ellis, 2725 Howard St., East Gary, Indiana 46405, Telephone 219/962-7454, or you may write Bro. Carl Templeman, 5027 Independence Ave., Portage, Indiana 46368, or Dial 219/962-6409.

PRAYER NOTE

Please remember Elder Roy M. Mason of Aripeka, Florida in prayer as he is very seriously ill at this time.

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon By James Hobbs

"THE THRONE OF GRACE"

"Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus, the son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an High Priest which can not be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the Throne of Grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need"—Hebrews 4:14-16. As we read this passage of Scrip-

ture, we are reminded of the fact that the Bible teaches us many times that we should come before Almighty God in prayer.

I would like for us to turn our thoughts to the place of rest, and comfort, and strength. The place where we go when we come before Almighty God in time of prayer—the Throne of Grace.

I want us to think about what is there, I want us to think about why we are to come to the Throne of Grace. If you will notice in verse

16, it says: "Let us therefore come boldly unto the Throne of Grace." Let us therefore! Meaning that we are to come to the Throne of Grace because of something that had been said in the verses before. Whenever you see the word "therefore," it refers to the Scripture that has been given to us in the verses or the chapters before. And He says, because of what has been said in the verses before, we can come boldly unto the Throne of (Continued on page 2, column 2)

SETTLING ACCOUNTS

An irreligious farmer in one of the western states, who gloried in his lack of religion, wrote a letter to his local weekly newspaper something like this: "Sir, I have been trying an experiment with a field of mine. I plowed it on Sunday; I planted it on Sunday; I dressed it on Sunday; I reaped it on Sunday; I carted the crop home to my barn on Sunday. And now, Mr. Editor, what is the result? I have more bushels to the acre in that field than any of my neighbors have had this October." Apparently, he expected some applause from the editor who did not appear to be especially religious. However, underneath the letter the editor added this significant little note: "But remember, sir, God does not always settle His accounts in October."

SOVEREIGN GRACE MISSION

JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE



Pictured above is the building and mission pastor, Bro. Carl G. Jenkins, Sr., of Johnson City, Tennessee. This is a relatively new work in this area and we urge and encourage all of our readers in this area to attend whenever possible. They are located at 830 Lamont Street, Johnson City, Tennessee. A visit by you will encourage them and you will be blessed by the warm welcome you will receive and their fellowship.



Dear Bro. John, Jr.:

I am very happy that you are editing TBE and doing a fine job of it. The many fine articles printed in it testify to that fact. Even though your father, our beloved pastor, is in glory, his works do follow him, and he being gone from us, still speaketh.

The blessings from TBE are priceless to us who are deprived of being in person with our beloved Calvary Baptist Church. May our precious Saviour continue to bless all of His work to His glory.

Yours in Him,
Mrs. Opal Sawhill,
Idaho.

Dear Brother:

Well, I see that I am booked for life, and that may not be much longer, as I am now beyond 88 years. I want to say that I surely do enjoy the dear old Baptist Examiner, and I do want to commend you dear ones for the continuation of it. I live by myself, and receive many periodicals, but it seems that TBE comes first on the list. So, God bless you and keep up the good work until Jesus comes.

Sincerely,
Francis E. Moore,
West Virginia.

Dear Bro. Gilpin, Jr.:

I just received the April 26th TBE and am happy and thankful you are to have Elder Milburn Cockrell as pastor. Any of the preachers who contribute messages to the paper would have filled the

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MILBURN COCKRELL --- Editor

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bill, but Elder Cockrell was the first one in my mind.

It was sad to learn about Bro. Fred Halliman going back to New Guinea, but his work there is more than wonderful and God-honoring.

Yours truly,
Miss Smith,
Kentucky.

Dear Bro. Gilpin:

We thank the Lord for continued blessings through the ministry of The Baptist Examiner. Such an effective publication must be the result of much prayer, study, planning, time and effort on your part, plus many others who work faithfully behind the scenes. May the Lord give you clear guidance, meet every need, strengthen your testimony, and bless you with the joy of His presence. We appreciate all that you are doing and will continue to pray for you.

In His Name,
Fred T. Marler, Jr.
Texas.

Beloved Calvary Baptist Church,

"God be gracious unto you, peace be unto each of you and unto each of thine houses."

While we wait for a pastor and watch for our Saviour to come, pray for me that I may be able to support all phases of our church work. God bless each of you.

Mrs. Ellen Pinkerton,
Arkansas.

Dear Editor,

So thankful you are continuing publication of the Baptist Examiner every week. The paper has been such a great blessing to me. A friend,
Mrs. O. C. Whitaker
Texas

"Throne Of Grace"

(Continued from page one)
Grace.

I want us to think first of all, why it is that we can come to the Throne of Grace. We have to look before and see what the "therefore" is. Looking back to verse 14, it says: "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, that has passed into the heavens, Jesus, the son of God, let us hold fast our profession." The reason, then, that we can come boldly unto the Throne of Grace is because of the fact that we have a High Priest who is the Lord Jesus Christ. Many times we think of the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, which He is, but very seldom do we think about the fact that He is not only our Saviour, but He is also our High Priest. He is the one to whom we can come for the troubles and the trials and the needs of this life.

Our High Priest

Years ago, as God gave to His people various means of coming to Him, He gave to them the means of coming through some priest in the worship of the temple in the days of old. The people had to come to the priest, and he in turn

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not of imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God"—II Cor. 5:17-20.

I am sure, beloved, that all of you are at least somewhat acquainted with the word "ambassador," and in a sense, you know something as to its meaning. To be sure, of recent date, due to the political shuffle at Washington, we have had quite a lot of changes so far as ambassadors are concerned. There has hardly been an issue of the daily paper of recent date, but what has told of the recalling of some of the ambassadors and the reappointment of still others to take their places. So, this morning in view of the fact that the word "ambassador" has been paraded in the daily papers so much of recent date, and in view of the fact that you and I have been made ambassador-conscious of recent date particularly, I want to speak to you today about our Heavenly ambassadorship. I would like to remind you in this message that there is a greater ambassadorship as a child of God than there is in being an ambassador from the greatest nation of the

went to the High Priest, and the High Priest in turn brought the needs of the people before Almighty God. Well, we have a High Priest, not one who is of the Levitical priesthood, not one who is man, but who is God-man. The One who became human to be our Saviour, but Who was also, and is, God, the One Who is passed into the Heavens now, the One Who is there making intercession for everyone of us. He is our High Priest. He is the One that makes it possible for us to be able to appear before the Throne of Grace. Let us look at Him for just a moment. Turn with me, if you will, to Hebrews 3:1-2: "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Jesus Christ; who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house."

As the writer of Hebrews is saying, brethren, those of you who are partakers of the Heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Jesus Christ.

He is the One that is the High Priest of our profession, the One that made our profession possible, the One that gave to us the profession, the privilege and the ability to profess our need for a Saviour, and to profess that fulfillment in the Lord Jesus Christ. Consider Him the High Priest of our profession.

In Hebrews 8:1-6, we hear much about Him:

"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. For every

world.

I rather imagine that the man who holds the post of ambassador from the United States to England has in all probability, the most coveted ambassadorship of any. Others are of great importance, but doubtless none of them carry the prestige, the honor, the weight, and the earthly glory as the one who holds the position of ambassador from the United States to Great Britain. Let me remind you this morning that though that is the greatest ambassadorship that a man may have so far as this world is concerned, yet the humblest child of God who is faithfully living for his Lord and Master today has an ambassadorship for the Lord Jesus Christ here within this world that far exceeds the greatest that this world has to offer.

I AN AMBASSADOR IS ALWAYS A FOREIGNER.

For example, the man who goes from this country to England is a foreigner to the English people. In like measure, beloved, the ambassador who comes from France, Holland, Russia, or Italy to Washington is of necessity a foreigner to us. An ambassador is always, without an exception, a foreigner to the country in which he lives.

In this respect, beloved, the analogy is perfect, for you and I as ambassadors of the Lord Jesus Christ are foreigners to this world. We live here, physically we were born here, but spiritually we were born from above and today we hold citizenship in Heaven. We

high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: 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. But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises."

Let's consider this one. We have such an high priest who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, not like the high priest of this world, not like the priest of this fleshly priesthood, but a priest that sits on the

have an Heavenly citizenship which has a priority and a superiority over our earthly citizenship, so that actually it can be said of us that in view of our Heavenly citizenship we are foreigners to this world.

"For our citizenship is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ"—Phil 3:20.

Yes, beloved, as an ambassador who goes to another country is a foreigner to that country, so you and I, though we were physically born within this world, because of our Heavenly citizenship, and in view of the fact that we have been born spiritually from above, we are foreigners to this world.

As the old song has said:

"I am a stranger here, within a foreign land;
My home is far away, upon a golden strand;
Ambassador to be of realms beyond the sea,
I'm here on business for my King.

This is the King's command: that all men, everywhere, Repent and turn away from sin's seductive snare;
That all who will obey, with Him shall reign for aye,
And that's my business for my King.

My home is brighter far than Sharon's rosy plain,
Eternal life and joy thro'out its vast domain;
My Sov'reign bids me tell how mortals there may dwell

(Continued on page 3, column 2)

right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens! A ministry of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle. One who is there in the sanctuary in the heavens, who is there in the true tabernacle which the Lord pitched, and not man. He hath obtained a more excellent ministry, he is the mediator of a better covenant which was established upon better promises, the establishment of God's promise to His people. In Hebrews 7:26, it says: "For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens." This high priest is holy, undefiled, separate from sinners and made higher than the heavens. He doesn't need to offer sacrifices everyday like the priest of old did. He offered up one sacrifice which was acceptable as the only perfect sacrifice.

(Continued on page 6, column 1)



Memorial Pulpit

By JOHN R. GILPIN

Our Beloved Pastor and Editor, Now in Glory

"AMBASSADORS"

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.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
P.O. Box 910, Ashland, Kentucky 41101

IS "THAT" IN THE BIBLE?



WHAT "VERY FAT MAN" WAS STABBED TO DEATH?

Answer: Eglon, king of Moab, Judges 3:14-26:

"So the children of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years. But . . . the Lord raised them up a deliverer, Ehud the son of Gera . . . But Ehud made him a dagger which had two edges, of a cubit length; and he did gird it under his raiment upon his right thigh. And he brought the present unto Eglon king of Moab: and Eglon was a very fat man . . . And Ehud said, I have a message from God unto thee . . . And Ehud put forth his left hand, and took the dagger from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly: And the haft also went in after the blade

. . . And Ehud escaped . . . unto Seirath."

"Ambassadors"

(Continued from page two)
And that's my business for my King.

This is the message that I bring, A message angels fain would sing:

'Oh, be ye reconciled,' Thus saith my Lord and King,
'Oh, be ye reconciled to God.'

II

AN AMBASSADOR IS TO REPRESENT SOMEONE ELSE.

An ambassador doesn't go to a foreign country to represent himself. A man who goes from this country with business interests in another land is not an ambassador. Beloved, an ambassador is to represent someone else other than himself.

How I trust that this will strike home in your heart this morning as it has in mine already. You and I, as ambassadors of our Lord Jesus Christ living here in this world, are to represent not our-

selves. We are to represent another — Someone else.

Sometime ago, I was talking with a preacher friend out in Oklahoma and he told me how that the Indians referred to a preacher as "the Jesus man." He said that many times he had gone into the Indian villages to preach and that the news would be carried from mouth to mouth that "the Jesus man" had arrived in town. He said that at first it didn't make much of an impression upon him, for he just considered it was the crude way they had of expressing the truth. Then he said that one day it dawned upon him as to the marvelous honor they were paying to him, when they referred to him as "the Jesus man," and he said that as he reflected upon it, it became even more precious when he realized that that was exactly what his business was — he was to be "a Jesus man" — he was to represent the Lord Jesus Christ.

Beloved, I would insist this morning an ambassador is not to live for himself. He is not to represent himself, but an ambassador is to represent someone else, and as Christ's ambassadors we are to represent the Lord Jesus Himself.

As I have often said, the world will read a whole lot more of the Gospel according to you and me than it will the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The world will read much more of the acts of Jesus in your life than it will of the Acts of the Apostles. The world will certainly read more of the revelation of Jesus Christ as revealed in you than they will of the Revelation that was written by John as the last book of the Word of God.

As the poet has said:

"We are the only Bible,
This careless world will read,
We are the sinner's Gospel,
We are the scoffer's creed;
We are the Lord's last message,
Given in deed and in word,
What if the print is crooked?
What if the type is blurred?"

Yes, beloved, as an ambassador is to represent someone else, so you and I should remember that we are to represent another — the Lord Jesus Christ.

III

AN AMBASSADOR IS TO LOOK AFTER SOMEONE ELSE'S INTERESTS AND NOT HIS OWN.

If the Standard Oil Company sends a business man to a foreign country to represent them, you couldn't say that he was an ambassador. He is merely there looking after a business. He is merely there looking after his own interests — perhaps as a stockholder in the company. Beloved, when a man goes from this country to a foreign land as an ambassador of our Government, he goes there without one single business tie. He goes there without one single business interest. He goes there without the ability to so much as sell shoe strings on the street corner. He goes there without one single business tie. His only interest is the interest of the country that has sent him. He goes there to look after somebody else's interest and not after his own.

I am wondering this morning if that truth has ever completely captivated your heart and life. I am wondering if it has ever completely taken hold of you and caused you to realize that you are in (Continued on page 4, column 2)

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MAY 10, 1975
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GET THE PUMP WITH THE Pledge!



Declaration of Dependability

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Goulds Water Systems are sold and serviced only by your local independent pump dealer who hereby declares that parts and service will readily be available.

GOULDS PUMPS

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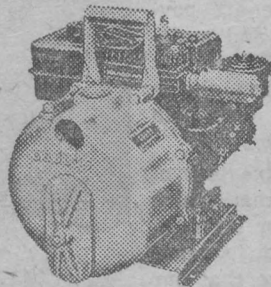


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"If God created the Heavens and the Earth about 4,000 B.C., what was He doing the countless ages before this date?"

ROY MASON

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The Bible doesn't say that God created the heavens and the earth about 4,000 B.C. It says, "IN THE BEGINNING God created the heavens and the earth." That could have been millions of years ago. Following this mere statement that "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth," we read that God began further creation as it related to the earth, and then spent six busy days fashioning the earth until it was fixed up to suit Him. Some Bible scholars think that He "refurbished" the earth, for they believe that there was a previous inhabiting of the earth, and that it was judged and destroyed. Verse 2 seems to fit in with this view for it can be translated, "And the earth WAS MADE WASTE AND VOID." (If you have a Scofield Bible, look at the notes in this connection). Personally, I don't know whether this view is correct or not.

But let us think for a moment just here. We have some powerful telescopes today. The one at Palomar, California is huge, and it reaches out millions of miles into space. Since the creation and use of these, scientists tell us that there are not only thousands, but millions, and even billions, of heavenly bodies. Our earth is very small in comparison with many of these.

What did God do, before our little earth was created? I don't know, but with millions of planets under His charge and care, I should think that He had plenty to do.



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Anything that could be said on a subject like this would be mere speculation. There are some things that He tells us for sure about what He did. Jesus was fore-ordained to shed His blood for us. "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conservation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world . . ." (I Pet. 1:18-20). God purposed before He created the world for Jesus to come as our Saviour and that He would die on the cross for us.

He loved Jesus, the Saviour, before the foundation of the world. . . . For thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world." (John 17:24.)

One of the things that brings rejoicing to me is that He loved me, and chose me before the foundation of the world. Our names are written down in the book of life before the foundation of the

world. . . . And they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world . . ." (Rev. 17:8). "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." (Rev. 21:27).

As far as other actions of God during the ages before creation, nobody knows. Some think that the fall of Satan occurred then, could be, but who knows?

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Our God is not pleased to reveal much of what He was doing before creation — but one thing is certain — He planned our redemption (Eph. 1:4) and entered into the Everlasting Covenant with His Son which would be implemented, in time, by His own precious blood. (Heb. 13:20).

Oh, what marvelous Grace!



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It is possible that we are delving into something that is none of our business. If God had wanted us to know what He was doing in the countless ages before that time, I am sure He would have told us. There are some things, however, that He has told us about. According to Eph. 1:4, He chose His elect people back in that era. And according to Rev. 17:8, their names were written in the Lamb's book of life, and according to Rev. 13:8, plans were made for Christ to die for His chosen people before the foundation of the world. Then, according to Mt. 25:34, a kingdom was also prepared for them before the world came into being.

But it is utterly impossible for anyone to prove to me that this earth was created 4,000 B.C. All we are told is that "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." I can find no proof that the "beginning" was 4,000 B.C. On the other hand, there is ample proof, as I see it, to prove it was not created at that time. In Gen. 1:2, we see the earth in what is really an indescribable mess. You and I make a mess of things sometimes. In fact, I get the idea sometimes that I am an expert at making things perfect. "His work is perfect," Deut. 32:4. In Isa. 45:18, Isaiah says, "He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited." Not even a

(Continued on page 7, column 1)

"Ambassadors"

(Continued from page three)
this world not to serve yourself, but to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. I am wondering if it has ever gripped you in the fullest manner pos-

sible for you to realize that your business is not to advance your own personal gain in any wise at all, but your business is to advance the interests of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sometime ago, I came in possession of a rare set of books — some ten volumes of a pictorial history of the Civil War. When I first got them, being a "Rebel" at heart, and having but little use for Yankees, and since this set of books was written entirely from that standpoint, I sat down and read them through and literally devoured them. I remember especially one incident that struck me forcibly. One general during the Civil War had given orders that at daybreak the army was to break camp and go on the march. That was along about Thursday in the week. There was one person in that segment of the army who had been a watch-maker back home, and he had brought along his watch-maker's tools and had taken in some half dozen watches for repair that belonged to the various fellows in the army. When he was told that they were to break camp at daybreak, he said, "I can't do that. I have a half dozen watches that I promised out by Saturday night." He had forgotten that he was a soldier and that his main business was to be a soldier. He was so engrossed in his watch-making that he had forgotten that his main business was to fight for his country.

I have often thought of it, and I wonder if it isn't true of the majority of God's people, beloved, that the most of us have forgotten that we are ambassadors for the Lord Jesus Christ, and not for ourselves. You and I are so engrossed with the making of money so that we can make ends meet from week to week. We are so engrossed with all of our activities and we are so engrossed with the things of this world that I fear many, many times that we forget that our main business is not to look after ourselves, not to advance our own interests, but rather our main business is to advance the interests of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We read:
"But seek ye FIRST the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you"—Mt. 6:33.

This is talking about food and drink and clothing — the things that we consider most essential for our bodily comfort. This would tell us that we are to put first things first and all these other things will be added unto us. Instead, beloved, the most of us put the last things first, and the first things last. We strive for all the world has to offer, and as a result we are poverty-stricken spiritually and materially; whereas God tells us that if we strive to put first things first, He will make us rich both materially and spiritually.

I tell you, beloved, this text of Scripture, along with that which I am using as a basis for my message this morning, ought to cause everyone of us to realize that our business as an ambassador, is one whereby we are not to look out for "number one," and we are not to be concerned about our own family's interests, but our business is that we be good ambassadors of the Lord Jesus Christ.

IV

AN AMBASSADOR HAS DEFINITE INSTRUCTIONS.

For example, when a man leaves this country to go as an ambassador to another country, he doesn't originate his own message, but rather he has positive, definite instructions written down for him, and he carries out the instructions

that have been given him by others. I mean to say, beloved, the ambassador doesn't originate his message, but rather he merely delivers the message that is given to him.

That is my business as a preacher of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that is your business as a layman seated here before me as you shall meet with men in the marts and markets of the week. It is your business and my business today to remember that we are not to originate our message. We already have our message given to us, and as ambassadors, beloved, it is our business to deliver the message that is given to us and not to originate any other.

Now the trouble with this world today religiously, is that the majority of people are not willing to be ambassadors for the Lord Jesus Christ in this respect, for the majority of people, instead of being ambassadors for Him and taking His message, have changed the message to suit themselves. As such, they have failed to be ambassadors of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Here is a man who says infant baptism should be practiced, and he makes it plain that he is a sincere believer in infant baptism. When you ask him for a Scripture for it, he frankly admits that there is none. When you ask him for a logical reason relative to it, he admits that there is none. Instead, beloved, he tells you that it is a beautiful symbol and a beautiful ceremony; therefore, he thinks it is perfectly all right to believe in infant baptism.

Now, beloved, all the argument and all the persuasion in this world that you might bring to bear upon that individual will never change his mind one particle unless he comes to the place where he will accept the Word of God as final in every particular. All the talking that you may do to him will never change his mind. Why? Because he fails to see that an ambassador of the Lord Jesus Christ should get his message from the Lord Jesus Christ. He fails to see that he is not to originate his own. Instead, that man is merely originating his own message.

Or here is some individual who today is preaching apostasy, and as one of them said to me this last week, with emphasis, "I don't care if the Bible does say that you are saved forever, I don't believe it." Beloved, the trouble with that man is that he is just blind to the Word of God, and he fails to see that as an ambassador of the Lord Jesus Christ his business is to get the message from Jesus instead of originating his own. What he has done though, is to originate his own.

I insist this morning, beloved,

that every man who is preaching apostasy or falling from grace — every individual who talks about losing one's salvation has originated his own message and never got it out of the Word of God. I might mention sprinkling. I might mention the question of the universal church. Men didn't get those things out of the Word of God. They are the origination of some corrupted imagination. They didn't come from God's Word. You don't find sprinkling in the Word of God for baptism. You don't find a universal church in the Word of God as the church which Jesus built. The men who talk about the universal church have corrupted the very idea of a church and at the same time corrupted the teaching of the kingdom of God. They have confused the two. A man who realizes that as an ambassador his business is to get his message from God, and not to originate his own, will be mighty, mighty careful about what kind of a message he has to bring.

I remember that sterling character, that stalwart specimen of Scriptural ruggedness that we read about in the first chapters of the Gospel of Matthew — John the Baptist. I remember that one day as Jesus Christ passed along the shores of the Sea of Galilee, that John the Baptist lifted the index finger and pointed to Him and said to his disciples, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!" Listen, beloved, if all had been faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ as was John the Baptist, there wouldn't be but one denomination in the world today. It is when men begin to point to themselves as to what they think, and what they believe, and what they think the Bible says, thus ignoring the true teachings of the Word of God — it is then that the religious confusion comes. It is then that men cease being ambassadors for the Lord Jesus Christ. They cease getting their instructions from someone else — from Jesus. They then begin to give out their own instructions and they then begin to originate their own message.

Oh, would to God this morning, beloved, that you and I might be true ambassadors, that we might ever just fall back upon this old Book and not only hug it to our bosom to believe it ourselves, but to get our message from it; and not only to get our message from it, but to cling to the message that it has for us, and to deliver it — and nothing else when we speak!

V

AN AMBASSADOR IS TO ADVANCE THE INTERESTS OF HIS COUNTRY.

That is my business as an am-

(Continued on page 5, column 2)

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SUBJECT: ELDER FRED T. HALLIMAN'S CHURCH LETTER

"Ye Shall Be Witnesses Unto Me"—Acts 14:8

Macedonia Baptist Church

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CHICAGO 47, ILLINOIS

LLOYD B. WYRICK, Pastor
2240 N. MAPLEWOOD AVE.
PHONE: CA-7-5650

April 16, 1969

To whom it may concern:

This is to certify that Elder Fred T. Halliman, Georgia Halliman, Rhoda Halliman and John Halliman are members in full fellowship and good standing of the Macedonia Baptist Church, 2501 N. Maplewood Ave. Chicago, Illinois 60647. At their request their names are being removed from our church roll in order that they may unite with some other Baptist Church of like faith and order.

We highly recommend these as true to the doctrines of the Bible and the calling wherein the Lord has called them. They have been most faithful to the church and to the Lord.

This letter is good for ninety days only.

Yours in Christ

Lloyd B. Wyrick
Lloyd B. Wyrick, Pastor

EDITOR'S NOTE: For over two years, Brother Fred and Calvary Baptist Church have received numerous inquiries and/or complaints about the authenticity of his church letter when he joined Calvary Baptist Church in 1969. In order to once and for-all silence the critics, we hereby have reproduced it in printed form to alleviate the minds of any concerned. This is another example of how Satan works to destroy anyone who is trying to serve the Lord to the best of his ability.

about by reconciliation between suade men to be reconciled to Him.

CONCLUSION

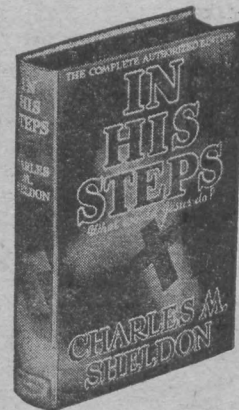
Sometimes ambassadors from one country are recalled because of a change of government, or because of a change of political power. Sometimes they are recalled because relations between nations become so strained that it is no longer considered proper to attempt to maintain a diplomatic poise. Sometimes ambassadors are recalled for other reasons, but remember this: God doesn't recall His ambassadors because the world is opposed to them, and the world is against His kingdom and His cause. You will admit this morning that the world is against us, and the world is against the Lord Jesus Christ, and the world is opposed to His kingdom. Beloved, God doesn't recall us because of that. He leaves us here in this world until we finish our work, and then when we have finished our work, whether it be big or little, irrespective of what the task or tasks are that He has entrusted unto us — when that work is finished, what a happy recalling God's people will experience then.

I'll grant you, beloved, it isn't going to be a happy experience for an individual who has been saved and who has not been a faithful ambassador. I'll grant you it isn't going to be a very pleasant experience for that person who is saved, but who has not lived faithfully for the Lord. Many a man when he comes down to the end of the way will say:

"Must I go, and empty-handed, Thus my dear Redeemer meet? Not one day of service give Him, Lay no trophy at His feet?"

Brother, sister, that man who has been faithful to His Lord, who has been what an ambassador ought to be, when he comes to the end of his way, when God recalls him, not because the world is at "outs" with the kingdom of Christ, but because his work is finished — when God recalls him in death, what a blessed, happy experience it will be for that child of God!

There's an old brother who used to live out in Texas. I have never known him personally, though I have had letters from him many, (Continued on page 6, column 5)



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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
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PAGE FIVE

ADAM'S RIB

WRITTEN BY A WOMAN
AND FOR WOMEN

"REFRAINING THE TONGUE"

"For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile" (1 Pet. 3:10).

The majority of our sins are propagated via the tongue. No wonder James says it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. What are some of the sins of the tongue? Boasting, blasphemy, cursing, lying, scoffing, gossip, slander, strife, bitterness, heresy, deceitfulness, railing, hypocrisy, etc. All of these things are fed and encouraged by the tongue. That, no doubt, is the reason the Scriptures have so many warnings to us concerning our lips.

There is no way we can measure the depth of a wound made by the tongue, when it is sharpened like a razor to do its worst. And the healing of this wound is slow and painful. Often, being torn open again and again. And at best, it leaves an ugly scar. James says no man can tame the tongue. So what are we to do, despair? Never. Our Lord can do that which man cannot do. There are three major steps we can take to help us guard against the evil tongue.

(1) Prayer. We need to pray for grace in time of need. Never underestimate the power of prayer. If we recognize in our heart we have a problem with our tongue, then He has promised to help us.

(2) Avoid those who have a similar problem. "I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers" (Psa. 26:4). When we avoid others with this same problem, we remove ourselves from temptation, and it is also a silent rebuke to the other

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person. So it will work for our good and hers.

(3) Cultivate the habit of praising, encouraging and well-speaking of others. Many times our critical spirit is a matter of habit. "In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin, but he that refraineth his lips is wise" (Prov. 10:19).

May it please the Lord to give us grace to follow His admonishment in Eph. 4:29: "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."



"Ambassadors"

(Continued from page four)
bassador of Jesus. That is your business. You are to advance the interests of the country where your citizenship is today. Now the Word of God says that your citizenship is in Heaven. Beloved, if that is where your citizenship is, your business is to advance Heavenly interests here on earth. I speak not as a preacher, but I speak as an individual Christian. You and I as God's own children have just one business today, and that is we ought to try to help everybody we meet to know and enjoy Heaven right here on earth, remembering that our citizenship is in Heaven. Listen:

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and TEACH ALL NATIONS, baptizing them in the name of the Father (and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" — Mt. 28:18-20.

"And He said unto them, GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD, and preach the gospel to every creature." — Mark 16:15.

"As thou hast sent me into the world, EVEN SO HAVE I ALSO SENT THEM into the world" — John 17:18.

"Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even SO SEND I YOU" — John 20:21.

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be WITNESSES UNTO ME both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" — Acts 1:8.

These verses tell us that our business as an ambassador is to advance the interests of our country — the interests of the country wherein we have our citizenship. As God's child you have citizenship in Heaven, and my brother, your business is to advance the interests of Heaven here on earth.

I have a hard time understanding the individual who claims to be saved and at the same time is not concerned as to the salvation of lost people. I have a hard time understanding that individual who claims to be saved and is not concerned as to missionary activity. I say, beloved, I have a hard time understanding any man or woman who claims to be saved who is not evangelistic nor missionary as to his deportment. I tell you, beloved, an ambassador's business is to advance the interests of the country that sends him out. Your ambassadorship is based upon your Heavenly citizenship. You ought to be trying to evangelize and to give the Gospel to those whom you meet.

VI

AN AMBASSADOR'S BUSINESS IS ONE OF RECONCILIATION.

The chief work of an ambassador to a foreign country is to maintain diplomatic poise between two nations. Sometimes relations will be come strained between nations just as they do between individuals and homes and in churches, and an ambassador to a foreign country has one primary objective — he is there to maintain that relationship that is brought

"Throne Of Grace"

(Continued from Page Two)
In Hebrews 2:16 and 17:

"For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people."

We have a high priest there at the Throne of Grace who is merciful and faithful, One who makes reconciliation for the sins of the people. Beloved, we read in the Word of God that we should be careful that we live a life that would bring honor and glory to the Lord, a life that would lift up the Lord in every way. We know that all the time we are preaching that everyone of us will sin. We know also that we are not excused for that sin, but we do know this — that when we do sin, we have a high priest who makes reconciliation for those sins. This ought not in anyway to give us encouragement to sin, but it ought to make us ashamed for the fact that our Lord has to make intercession for our sins.

We ought to say, "Lord, I will try to serve Thee in such a way that there will not be many sins for which You will have to make intercession." But regardless of how many sins we commit, our Lord and Saviour is merciful and faithful, and He will make reconciliation for our sins. Let me tell you something about this One Who is the High Priest, this One Who is there, the Priest of our profession, the One Who offered gifts and sacrifices before the perfect tabernacle, the One Who is holy, and merciful, and faithful. The reason that He is there, is told to us in verse 15 of our text:

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

Not only do we see, then, that we have a High Priest at the Throne of Grace, but we have One Who was tempted. One Who was tempted!! One Who is in *everyway*, it says, "tempted like as we are." Tempted, but without sin, yet One Who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities.

Beloved, when you come before God at the Throne of Grace, when you come before the Lord Jesus Christ Who is our High Priest there at this Throne, if you are coming with a burdened heart, let me assure you that His heart becomes burdened with you. When you come with tears in your eyes, let me as-

sure you that He has tears in His eyes for you. When you come with joy in your heart, let me assure you that there is rejoicing in His heart, because I am told here that He is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He is touched! He knows! He knows what kind of problems you have, He knows what kind of trials you are going through. He knows what kind of heartaches you are going through. He knows your burdens and your tribulations and your temptations. He knows and He understands. And He feels with you. In II Cor. 5:21, He was made to be sin for us. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." God made Christ to be sin for us. He knew no sin, but God made Him to be sin for us. That we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. Oh, we could find verse after verse that talks about the fact that He was tempted, the fact that many times sins came before Him. Not one time will we find a verse of Scripture that even implies that He was guilty of sin. There are those who would say that the Lord Jesus Christ was guilty of many sins. They are coming out with some books now that are accusing Him of even the vilest of sins, that is the sin against nature. There are those that are saying that He was guilty of the sexual sins against nature. There are those who say that He was married, or that He ran around with fallen women. But you look at the Word of God and you find that He was in all points tempted like as we are, yet He was without sin. He was not guilty of committing any sins. We are told in Isaiah 53:3:

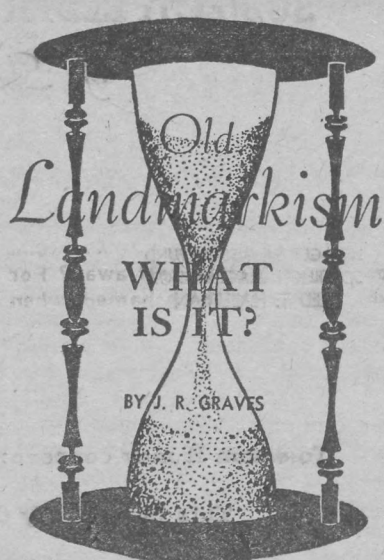
"He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not."

Ah, we see this One, we see that He was despised and rejected of men, tempted of Satan, made to be sin for us, yet He Himself, was without sin.

In Hebrews 2:18, it says:

"For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted."

Since He Himself suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted. Since He Himself suffered being tempted, He is able to understand us when we are tempted. Perhaps that is why God placed Him at the Throne of Grace. Perhaps that is why God worked it like it was, so that when we come before the Throne of Grace, we know we are coming in-



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to the presence of the High Priest Who understands and Who can help when we are tempted. Yes, tempted, but yet without sin. But because He was tempted, He can succour us, He can be of comfort to us when we come there.

Now, we get down to verse 16:

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the Throne of Grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

Let us therefore come boldly unto the Throne of Grace. Let us therefore, because we have a High Priest that is there, because we have a High Priest that was tempted in everyway like we are. Despised and rejected of man, but Who understands and is willing to help. That's why.

That's why we come to the Throne of Grace. That's why He tells us to come here and bring our prayers here because of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Throne Of Grace

Now, let's look at this Throne of Grace. Let's notice something about it. First of all, I would like to point out that it tells us *who* is to come to the Throne of Grace. If you will notice in the 16th verse, it gives the pronoun, the personal pronoun, *US*. Let *us* come boldly unto the Throne of Grace. By using the pronoun they used here, the writer is including himself. I believe the writer to be Paul, and he's writing to the saints of Rome, and he's saying to them, "Let us come boldly unto the Throne of Grace." He's not talking to the unsaved here. This is not a verse of Scripture that would give to the unsaved the message of coming to the Throne of Grace. In this first chapter of the book of Hebrews and the second verse (after he had pointed out in verse 1 that God had spoken in many manners to people by the prophets in days past), it says in verse 2: "Hath in these days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds." He hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son. Spoken unto us: to Paul and the Apostles and the saved people all around.

In the 2nd chapter in the 9th verse:

"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man."

It says we see Jesus. Chapter 3, verse 1, says: "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus." So, from these verses we see that he is writing to the saints. To those who see Jesus, to those who have been saved. I would remind you, beloved, that the unsaved cannot pray in this manner.

You will notice that in Isaiah

59:1 and 2 it tells us: "Behold the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." Of course, He could be talking to both saved and unsaved in this verse because the same message is true. If you, as a child of God, have sinned against God, then that sin stands between you and your prayers to God. But, if you have not been saved, your sins stand between you and God so that He will not hear.

John 6:44 says:

"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."

Now, of course, we generally think of this as coming to Jesus in the sense of being saved, but whether we mean as coming to Jesus in the sense of being saved or coming to Jesus in prayer, it is all the same. No man can come to Him except the Father which has sent Him, draw him. We are told in John 8:43-47:

"Why do ye not understand my speech? **EVEN** because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of **YOUR** father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do: he was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell **YOU** the truth, ye believe me not. Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear **THEM** not, because ye are not of God."

He says that anybody that is not a child of God is a child of the devil and cannot hear the things of God. A person who is not a child of God cannot pray. In the first place, he cannot hear the things of God; in the second place, he is a child of the devil, and he wouldn't be going to God — he would be going to the devil, and he would not have a desire to come before Almighty God.

Well, of course, there are those who would say that Romans 10:13 tells us that the unsaved can pray. Where it says: "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved," but it goes on to say: "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" Verse 17

says: "So then, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

How can they call upon the father of whom they have not believed?

I remember a few years back, talking to a man in his house. He said, "No, I'm not saved," but he (Continued on page 7, column 1)

"Ambassadors"

(Continued from page five)

many times through the years. He was one of the first subscribers to THE BAPTIST EXAMINER. In those days he could see and could read and enjoy the messages. Though I have never seen him, I know a number of preacher brethren in Texas who do know him. They have told me what a "war-horse" he has been in contending for the truth through the years. I have only known him by correspondence in his declining years, but he has been such a blessing to me, and such an encouragement. Time and again he has written me, as an elderly preacher to a young preacher, to offer a word of advice and words of encouragement, which I deeply appreciated. A few years ago I got a letter written in a different handwriting telling me he was still enjoying the messages and telling me that he couldn't write me or that he couldn't read anymore because his eyesight had failed him. Down at the bottom was a postscript saying that the letter was being written by a daughter. Many times through the years I have heard from him, always written in the handwriting of his daughter, who has lovingly cared for him in his declining years. This last week I had a letter from her telling me of his home-going. I couldn't help but think this morning as I was bringing this message, what a happy, blessed experience there must be for that old Baptist preacher who was, as long as he was physically able, on the firing line for our Lord, and who, even when he became incapacitated physically for further active service, was then an encouragement and an inspiration to me though he had never seen me in life. I couldn't help but think this week how wonderful it must be that our God has recalled him as an ambassador.

He didn't recall him because the world was against him. He didn't recall him because the world didn't like his message. Our Lord left him here just as long as He had a task for him to do. When the tasks were finished, an old blind, worn-out preacher, God recalled him to the country of his citizenship. What a wonderful experience is awaiting the child of God!

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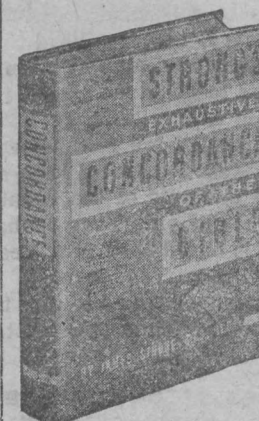
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Afflictions

(Continued from page one)

to "run the race that is set before us" and to "contend for the faith once delivered to the saints." We must realize that sometimes our afflictions are a result of sin, and pray that through the chastening of the Lord that we might be made usable in the Lord's work.

The Forum

(Continued from page 4)

mosquito could have inhabited the earth in the condition we see it in. About the best way I know of to describe the awful mess the earth was in is to liken it to the mess fallen mankind is in. So if you can fully and clearly understand the mess fallen man is in, you should have no trouble understanding the mess the earth was in. The earth at that time was a clear, distinct type of fallen man.

If you tell me that this earth is millions of years old, I cannot deny it, simply because I have no more proof that it is not that old than you have that it is. It is foolish for us to try to guess the age of the earth. I hope no one will think that I am lending comfort to the abominable evolutionists. Evolution could not do the job if it had a billion years in which to try. If you desire to know what I really think of evolution, write for my course on the subject. We will send along some Bible courses with it.

"Throne Of Grace"

(Continued from page 6)

I said, "I pray everyday." And I said, "To whom do you pray?" And he said, "God!" I said, "You just told me that you do not believe in God, in His Son. To not believe in His Son is not to believe in God. If you don't believe God about His Son, how can you believe God about anything else? And if you say to God, I don't believe what you say about your Son, then would you yet come to Him? Do you think your prayers go anywhere?" He said, "I never thought of it that way."

We are invited to come to the Throne of Grace because we are children of His, and we have a High Priest who understands our needs. He tells us in our verse of Scripture where to come. Other portions of the Word of God just tells us to pray, but it doesn't tell us where to pray or where to come. Well, we're told here, come to the Throne of Grace to find mercy and grace to help in the time of need. The Throne of Grace.

John 1:17 says, "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." Now we're told in the Word of God to come to the Throne of Grace. If the Throne of Grace is the place where we are to come, and if grace and truth came by Jesus Christ, then we understand that the Throne of Grace is our place to come in time of prayer.

II Corinthians 8:7: "Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also."

Well, what is it? Let us read in the verses before.

II Corinthians 8:1-5:

"Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction, the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; Praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God."

The grace of giving, because of affliction. So, as we are afflicted,

we come to the Throne of Grace. He says see that ye abound in the grace of wanting to help others who are in need. We are told to come to the Throne of Grace in II Corinthians 9:8: "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." The Grace of God is abounding. God is able to make the grace of God abound toward us. So when we come to the Throne of Grace, we come to the One Who is able to make all grace abound toward us.

II Corinthians 12:9: "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." The Grace of God is sufficient. So, beloved, let me assure you that when you go to the Throne of Grace, that, too, is sufficient for you. All that you need.

But as we look at our text, we see it tells us something else. It not only says let us come to the Throne of Grace because of our High Priest, but it says let us come boldly, let us come freely with every opportunity and with every need and with every desire — let us come boldly.

Hebrews 10:19-25:

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil that is to say, his flesh; And having a high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised; And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

See what happens when we come boldly unto the Throne of Grace? We first of all pray more, we have more assurance, we are sprinkled with the love of God, washed with pure water. We consider one another, we provoke one another unto good works. We assemble ourselves together more and exhort one another that much more, as we see the day approaching when the Lord will come again. So, if you don't want to do these things, then don't pray, because the more you pray the closer you are going to be to the Lord. The more He helps in our afflictions, the more we're going to help others in their afflictions.

So, beloved, as we look at our text, one more thought. He says, "Let us therefore come — boldly." Let us not stay back. Bro. Wilson said one time that he thinks of the Throne of Grace as a place that has many parking places, like a big parking lot. In this big parking lot, each person has their own spot. There's a name there and they park in that particular lot no matter when they come, there they can park in that particular spot because it's theirs. He says, "We have, before the Throne of Grace, a place with our name on it, anytime we come, day or night, any hour of the day, any hour of the night, regardless of what the reason, no matter how long we come, whether we are there for just a few minutes or for hours, that place is ours and nobody else can use it, a place for us."

Let us, therefore, come, don't stay back, don't think that your problems are not big enough for the Lord, don't think that He is too busy to worry about yours. He's not. He tells us to bring them, regardless of how big or how small, how few or how many, or how often — He says come. Let us, therefore, come — boldly. A place reserved for us before the throne.

I wonder how many times it's empty? I wonder how many times

that place before the throne is empty? Luke 9:23-27:

"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same will save it. For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? For whosoever shall be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels. But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God."

He says you are to come unto Me and deny yourself, pick up the cross daily and follow Me. To follow Jesus would be to follow Him into the realm of prayer, for He prayed much — all the time while He was here.

Luke 14:27: "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple." Do you want to be a disciple of Jesus? Pick up your cross daily. Follow Him. Come to Him at the Throne of Grace and He will help and He will guide.

Psalms 55:22: "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." Cast thy burden upon the Lord, come to the Throne of Grace. We have a High Priest there, One Who has been tempted in every way, like we have, yet without sin, and so, He is able to help. He's able to understand. Bring your needs and your desires to the Lord Jesus Christ!

Israel's Title Deed

(Continued from page one)

and swampy. I ask, would you not be within your moral right to serve that lazy farmer notice to vacate, and to lease your land to a diligent and progressive man? Of course you would!

This is just what the Arabs have allowed in Palestine. Large portions of the land that was once arable are now barren and even desert. Definitely, they have failed in their stewardship. When we become involved in such a situation, the picture changes.

God has granted man a limited liberty in the handling of the affairs of this world. But when man outrages the liberty, purity, and safety of others, then He providentially deals with that people, nation or generation. We have this principle demonstrated when God sent the Flood and destroyed all but eight persons, because they "had corrupted His way upon the earth" (Gen. 6:12). Also, in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the ancient nations and Pompeii. These prove that God rules in the kingdoms of men.

1. GOD TOOK THE LAND OF CANAAN FROM SEVEN NATIONS BECAUSE OF THEIR ABOMINATIONS!

These people practiced such godlessness and immorality that their cup of iniquity was full, and God called for a change of tenants. They were to be evicted—even the land was to spew them out (Lev. 18:28). God commanded Joshua to drive out or utterly destroy these reeking, rotting nations. The Canaanite civilization had become so unspeakably vile that the time had come for their extermination! Archaeologists who have dug among the relics of the Canaanites, have expressed amazement that God did not destroy them sooner.

Their heathen forms of worship were all geared to the most repugnant and debased forms of immorality. The corruption of these nations was beyond all recovery. Prostitution and sodomy have been the hangman's rope for many such people! To excuse their villainy, they made them part of their so-called worship.

Many ancient nations and peo-

ples have long since passed from this world by self-destruction, or because of their immoral debaucheries. To name a few — the Chaldeans, the Cappadocians, the Phoenicians, Medes, Moabites, Amalaites, Canaanites, and many others.

There is a doctrine in Scripture that families, nations and churches destroy themselves by lust and disobedience to God! A land or organization can only bear so much blood or guilt, then providentially there commences a purging, an eviction or destruction (Lev. 20:22).

2. BY AN ACT OF GOD LAND OF CANAAN WAS DEEDED TO THE HEBREW PEOPLE FOREVER!

I wish to point out seven Scriptures which contain the wording of the deed for the land of Canaan, which God gave to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and which was witnessed by Moses. This promise of the land to the Hebrew people was an unconditional promise! It was given by God about 500 years before the Israelites took possession of any part of it. God laid down no conditions by which this land would become theirs. It was an outright, magnanimous gift to them. Only a sovereign God could do such a thing, for only He is the possessor of the whole earth.

To quote His words in the language of the Psalmist, He said, "Every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountain: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof" (Psa. 50:10-12).

It was God who gave Israel this fertile land in the centre of the earth's surface. Israel is the only nation to whom God gave a specific territory by title deed! It is theirs! What God gives a man is his by sovereign right. Therefore, the land of Palestine belongs to the Hebrew people by Divine right!

God has never rescinded, revoked or cancelled Israel's title to this territory in the Middle East. It is God's gift to the Hebrew people of this generation as much as it was in the days of Joshua and Solomon, because this ownership of the land was secured to them by God forever. God has allowed the Arabs and Syrians the use of the land, until He would bring His people back again. In recent years God has been indicating that the time for His people to return home to their land has come. There is ample room in the land for both peoples if the Arabs choose to stay. Both are in the process of change and readjustment. This land was so deeded to Israel, that one generation could not dispossess it for another. It is non-transferable! The deeds are registered in the archives of the Holy Scriptures.

3. THE FOLLOWING IS THE SEVEN-FOLD AFFIDAVIT GIVEN BY GOD TO ABRAHAM AND HIS SEED.

(1) Gen. 12:6-7: "And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of

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Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: And there builded he his first altar unto the Lord . . ."

(2) Gen. 13:14-17: "And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him. Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art (at Bethel) northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever . . . Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee."

(3) Gen. 17:1-8: "... I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God" (v. 8).

(4) Gen. 15:18: "In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates."

We find that Ezekiel fixes the Northern boundary at Hamath, which is about 100 miles north of Damascus (48:1). The Southern border is at the river of Egypt, which is about 100 miles south of Jerusalem, which appears to flow (Continued on page 8, column 3)

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Israel's Title Deed

(Continued from page seven)

into the Gulf of Aqaba. This territory is about eight times larger than that occupied by the twelve tribes in the days of Joshua and Solomon.

(5) Gen. 26:1-5 — Here we have the promise renewed to Isaac, especially in verses three and four: "Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee . . . I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father; and I . . . will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed."

(6) Gen. 28:13-15 — Here God renews the promise to Jacob: ". . . the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed . . ." (v. 13).

(7) Deut. 34:4 — In this portion, God reveals to Moses that this is the promised land: "This is the land which I swore unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither."

For anyone to say that Israel has no claim to this territory in the Middle East, they must be ignorant of what God has said or, they are fanatically prejudiced!

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my Words shall not pass away" (Matt. 24:35).

". . . The Word of God . . . abideth forever" (I Peter 1:23).

"But the Word of the Lord endureth forever" (I Peter 1:25).



Salvation Of The Lord

(Continued from page one)

It can only be repentance first, then faith, and then belief.

And since repentance must come first, let us see if we can learn just what it is, and how it is brought about. You have probably seen a preacher walk in one direction behind the pulpit for two or three steps, then turn around and walk in the other direction, and say, that is repentance. Now if that is repentance, anybody who is able to walk can repent. But the fact of the matter is, this is no more repentance than the ugly duckling was a bald eagle. There are some terms in the Bible that it is absolutely essential that we go to the original language in order to get the true meaning. And repentance is one of them. Dictionaries of today just do not give the meaning that it had two thousand years ago. The word "repentance" in the Bible comes from the Greek word META-NOEO which simply means another mind. It means to have a new mind, a different mind. Rom. 8:7 says, "The carnal mind is enmity against God." And that is the only kind of mind that a lost person can possibly have. So we see the lost person must have a new mind, one that is not enmity against God before he can become a child of His. If he could change his mind to one that is not enmity against God while he is still a lost person, he would be a monstrosity. The fact is, he is dead in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1), and is, therefore, unable to do anything about his carnal mind. So in Acts 11:18, we learn that God granted repentance to the Gentiles. This word "granted" comes from DIDOMI which means to give. So God gives the new mind to the spiritually dead lost person. There is just no other way under Heaven for him to get it.

We should have no trouble in seeing that the lost person can have no faith in Christ until he receives that new mind that is not an enemy to Him. Now let us consider the faith. We hear people telling the lost to exercise faith. But how can they exercise something they do not have? Eph. 2:8 says, "By grace are ye saved through faith." So

we know the lost person who has been given a new mind must also have faith. But how does the lost person get that faith? Does he generate it, or work it up? Let us go back to Eph. 2:8 and take a close look at the latter part of that verse. There we read, "and that (the faith) not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." We see God had to give the repentance. Now we also see that He gives the faith. I am sure that if that lost person had the ability to generate the faith, or to get it in any other way, God would not give it to him. God gives to the lost person that which he cannot get in any other way.

Now that we see that God gives the repentance and the faith, may we consider the believing. It would seem now that God has given the lost person a new mind and has given him faith in Christ, he should be able to believe on Him without any help. From a logical viewpoint it seems he could not help but believe after all that has been done for him. But God's ways of doing things are never logical. He says, "My thoughts are not your thoughts," Isa. 55:8. So what does the Book say about the believing? In Phil. 1:29 we read: "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake." So if the Scripture says that our believing on Christ is a gift, we had better believe it. Another important question is, When does all this take place? Paul says in Gal. 1:15, that it takes place when it pleases God. And we had better believe that, too. Jonah must have known what he was talking about when he said, "Salvation is of the Lord."



Soul Winning

(Continued from page one)

and the Lord's church, the standard reply is: "Yes, but they are winning souls." This is that old Satanic philosophy, that, "the end justifies the means." One overly zealous Arminian said, "It does not matter how you get them there (church), just get them there." This is Communism's philosophy, the "lie" is their chief means in promoting their cause. Romanism has practiced this evil philosophy for centuries. The slaughter of millions of dissidents in the Dark Ages was justified in their sight, for the end result was the preservation and promotion of their own church. Paul denounced this, "Let us do evil that good may come," philosophy in Romans 3:8. Sincere and zealous striving for good is of no profit, unless it is ALSO BIBLICAL. The crown is given to him that "strives lawfully" (II Tim. 2:5). The Book of Acts is the history book of the early church. The church grew and prospered, and yet, not once do you find where they used carnal means which like are so prevalent in the churches of today. We need to return to New Testament simplicity; preaching, teaching, praying and singing constituted the worship services of the Apostolic area churches.

No Need For Carnal Tactics

The carnal stimulus used today by numbers-hungry churches is without Scriptural precedent. On the contrary, they have their roots in hyper-heated zeal, and this zeal is the ground that gives birth to the ingenious plans of men. These plans produce happy expedients leading to easy believism, which in the final analysis is seen to be a device of the devil. The true witness will prayerfully consider the awesomeness of his mission, and will exercise the upmost caution against using finite wisdom in his effort to win souls.

I fear many a decision is the result of the intellectual power and pressure of the would-be soul winner, thereby intensifying the peril of the unsuspecting victim. It is often that the salvation (?) of the soul is attributed to the ability and merit of the human instrument. The Apostle Paul won many to Christ and much adulation was accorded him, but he immediately rejected it saying, "Neither is he

that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase" (I Cor. 3:7). The soul winner has been Divinely equipped with a sure and effective weapon, "The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God" (Eph. 6:17). The Word of God is thoroughly adequate for every good work (II Tim. 3:17). God never places His approbation on anything that is done contrary to His Word. The effort of the soul winner is rendered totally vain with the first deviation from Truth. A ninety per cent truth is, in God's sight, a one hundred per cent lie (James 2:10). A superior intellect may be able to dissuade, and gainsay every objection of the prospect, but all the best intellectual power can do is to win the prospect over to the reasonableness of the position presented and agreement with it. The result is not a soul won for Christ, but a mind won over to religion. We do not mean to imply that the Bible is against reason — the Bible is above reason, as high as the Heaven of God is above the earth. The ultimate power of reason is totally incapable of discovering the most elemental of spiritual truths. Solomon said: ". . . He that winneth souls is wise" (Prov. 11:30). Christ said, the wise man is one that heareth His sayings and doeth them, "I will liken him unto a wise man which built his house upon a rock" (Mt. 7:24), that is, the wise soul winner will base his witnessing on the whole counsel of God's Word.

Churches Seduced

Satan seduces churches and pastors by causing them to want to make a name for themselves in the religious world, and in order to realize this ambition, certain prerequisites must be met; the largest Sunday School in town, the largest church building in town, the largest bus fleet in town and the largest zeal for more of the same. All this is a must, for in the religious world of today, bigness is equated with success. Thus it is, many are running without being sent by God. Their eyes are not on Him that is "The Way, the Truth and the Life," but their vision is settled on their present earthly grandeur. But what ground is there for boasting when the largest church in town also has the least spiritual truth? Our logic and reasoning will press into use many anti-Scriptural expedients, that the desired(?) results may be realized, but we must ever remember that in the eternal economy, "The flesh profiteth nothing, AND that it is the Spirit that quickeneth" (John 6:63). Soul winning is never to be used as a license to ignore Scripture and disobey God.

One Soul Winner

There is in truth but ONE soul winner, and that is Christ Jesus, the Lord. I am terribly frightened for those souls which point to human agency as the champion and winner of their soul. God said a long time ago, "All souls are mine" (Ezek. 18:4). The battle is not to win a soul from the devil, but the war was with God's righteous and holy judgment against the sinner, and Christ alone and unaided won this battle for His people. The believer can now say with Paul, "Thanks be unto God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 15:57). True Baptists need not become alarmed by, nor envious of, the seeming great success of these self-elevating churches. We have no need to write Washington and have ourselves placed on the list of endangered species. Let us stay away from the panic button and with God's glorious promise that the "Gates of Hell" would never prevail against us. "Let us not follow after a multitude to do evil" (Ex. 23:2). Let us know that the absence of any mention of these practices, games, give-aways, contests, prizes, etc., in Scripture, is sufficient evidence to warrant leaving them out of the Lord's precious church. Let us draw near with a true heart to Him that is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

God bless you all.

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