

THE "FALL OF MAN"

By CHARLIE J. BUFORD
Scottsboro, Alabama

MISSIONARY

PREMILLENNIAL

BIBLICAL

BAPTISTIC

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

Vol. 43, No. 21

ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, JUNE 7, 1975

WHOLE NUMBER 2022

An Open Letter To All The Saints In Jesus

By EDMOND DEMPSEY
Johnson City, Tenn.

I am writing this letter as to why I was re-baptized or "Scripturally baptized" in the early part of August, 1974.

I was saved several years ago in my home during the time Bro. Gerald Price was pastor of Asbury Baptist Church here in Johnson City, Tenn. This happened some time during the week days, while the pastor was visiting in my home, "at my request." I had met him at a local store, inviting him to go home with me. Before this time, I did not care at all for my preacher, and had no regard for any religion or church services of any kind. I really did not know anything about, or if there were any differences in religious services at all; actually, I did not know anything at all about the Scriptures. I had never attended any church services at all. I had gone to Sunday School a few times when I was a child.

I really could not understand the way I was acting that day or why I had invited a preacher into my home. He read Scripture and told me about the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and how Christ could save sinners. In other words, brought a short message on the

gospel and God-saving grace. It was then I was quickened and made a new creature in Jesus Christ.

The next Lord's day morning I was at Church services... at the end of the services an invitation was given in regard to Baptism and church membership. I presented myself and was accepted upon my profession of faith in Christ. A motion was made that I be accepted as a candidate for baptism and a vote was taken in favor; there were none opposed. I was baptized shortly after this time and given the right hand of church fellowship.

I had not heard anything in those days about church authority or a church being rightly or Scripturally organized. It was considered church authority if the congregation had voted in approval of such action... I believe this to be truth, provided the church in the beginning had been properly organized by church authority of another sound church with church authority and church succession.

The church at that time was very unsound (Arminian) and has grown more unsound through the years. I did not know this when I was first saved and united with this church. I needed to grow in grace and knowledge, and by study

of God's Word I did grow in grace and knowledge.

After two years, there was a church split over the way a new pastor was called. I left the church along with 14 others who had voiced, at least, they wanted an Independent Missionary Baptist Church. We purchased a meeting place and Bro. Charles Souder was called as a director or moderator, who at first only came on Wednesday night teaching the book of Genesis. After some six months or so he came regularly for all services, preaching and teaching. We continued these services regularly for approximately 18 months. At this time Bro. Souder, Bro. Boggs and myself extended an invitation to Bro. John R. Gilpin, Sr. (Bro. Souder recommended Bro. Gilpin) to preach at a mission point where we were having regular preaching services. It was then I first became acquainted with the Baptist Examiner and Bro. Gilpin.

Under Bro. Souder's preaching, my own study of the word (II Tim. 2:15), and the precious truth taught in T.B.E.—I did grow in grace and in church truth.

Not long after this we tried in vain to organize an Independent Baptist Church. Of course, I realized (Continued on page 8, column 3)

loved, the God that created Adam was an omniscient God. And because of this attribute, He could not be taken by surprise by any act that Adam could perform. There could be absolutely nothing in his stand nor in his fall that could be hid from the eye of omniscience. If God is not all-knowing, then He has started a work that He can't finish, because He may



CHARLIE J. BUFORD

be leading us up a blind alley — not knowing what the outcome will be. I thank God that this is not the case. All things are open before Him and He declares the end from the beginning. Not only is God omniscient but He has another attribute that has been denied by the devil's crowd.

God is Omnipotent, therefore there could be no failure in His ability to do as He pleases. There are so many deceivers in the world that many honest people are deceived into thinking that God always tries His best but fails (Continued on page 6, column 4)

Gen. 2:7: "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

This verse says God formed man from the dust of the ground, then in verses 16 and 17 we see God giving a command to this newly created man. And also, we see the penalty for breaking God's command. Then again, we read in Rom. 5:12: "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Beloved, this verse says this penalty was passed upon the race. Rom. 6:23 again says "The wages of sin is death."

Now I know that this is a Bible doctrine that has been the subject of much debate. And I do not intend to go into an episode of technical hair splitting. But I do say that if any man preaches a straight message on the doctrines of Grace, he must first understand, at least, the effects of the fall of man. If God really is God, and we would give Him credit for being a Sovereign God, then we must admit in the first place that:

I.

God created man according to His eternal purpose, uninfluenced by anyone or anything outside of Himself.

He created man exactly as He wanted to. There was no one to oppose Him in His creative work. And if there had been, nothing could successfully resist omnipotence. I get sick at my stomach when I hear these people preach about an ignorant God who doesn't know what He is doing and is so helpless that He couldn't do anything about it if He did know. Be-

Baptists Are Departing From The Faith

R. LAWRENCE CRAWFORD
Hayward, California

The Lord gave his churches a system of doctrines, and that system is called "the Faith" in many Scriptures, (Jude 3, Luke 18:8; Ephesians 4:5). This "faith" is more than a personal belief in Christ as the Redeemer and Saviour; it is a way of truth and a method of serving God.

THE FAITH IS VERY IMPORTANT.

This system of doctrine was so important to the Apostle John that he wrote, "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is a partaker of his evil deeds." This is why we can not have church fellowship with teachers of false doctrines.

BAPTISTS DO NOT BELIEVE IN CHURCH SALVATION, BUT WE DO TEACH CHURCH SEPARATION AND A SUCCESSION OF BAPTIST CHURCHES FROM THE DAYS OF CHRIST UNTO THE PRESENT.

Baptists believe people are saved before they can become church members and some are saved who never become church members. Saved people were added to the church (Acts 2:41, 47), therefore, they were saved before becoming members. The Lord promised perpetuity to His churches, viz., His churches will never cease to exist. These churches or, at least, some of them, will be here when Christ returns. (See I Corinthians 11:26; Matt. 28:19-20; Eph. 3:21).

SOME BAPTIST CHURCHES HAVE ACCEPTED FALSE DOCTRINES.

The devil has always sought to corrupt the churches and thus put

out the gospel light. Some churches have open communion and accept alien immersion (immersion performed by unscriptural churches is alien immersion). The question is not about the amount of water used, but about the authority behind a false and corrupt church which ceased to be a true church. At one time the church in Rome was a true Baptist church, but it ceased being such many centuries ago. Baptism must be administered by a true church, or it is corrupt. We are standing for the faith. You should seek the truth and take a stand for Christ while it is possible.

ARE YOU IN A CHURCH THAT IS DRIFTING AWAY FROM THE TRUTH?

It is time to inspect and examine your church connection. If you are in a church which has placed the emphasis on numbers instead of truth, you should come out and take a stand with God's people.

BROTHER PAUL WASHER
NOW IN GLORY

One of our strongest friends, supporter, and contributor to The Baptist Examiner and New Guinea Missions, Brother Paul Washer of Brookport, Illinois, was taken from this life on May 20, 1975 in the providence of God.

Brother Washer was involved in an automobile accident at approximately 3:00 p.m. and expired approximately 6:30 p.m. that evening. He was a gentlemen among ladies, a giant among men, and one of the most humble Christians among my acquaintances.

To his wife and children we extend our deepest sympathy, but also rejoice in knowing that he is far better off than we. The family has requested that instead of sending flowers, send contributions to New Guinea Missions in his memory, which he was so interested. Address: Southside Baptist Church, 2800 Old Mayfield Road, Paducah, Kentucky 42001.

Elder Tildon Garner, pastor of the Southside Baptist Church of (Continued on page 2, column 1)

No. 3 IN A SERIES . . .

"REPENTANCE"

By ELD. JULIUS D. WISHON
Meadowview, Virginia

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent" (Acts 17:30).

As we have previously said, repentance is not a popular message, but God has commanded the preacher to preach repentance. The modern preacher will tell us that we are to preach on love, but what led Paul to preach at this time. He spoke the words of our text, when he saw the whole city of Athens, Greece given to idolatry. Paul and Silas had just gone through a great experience at Philippi, Macedonia, which resulted in them being imprisoned. God sent a great earthquake that shook even the foundation of the prison to the extent that every prisoner's shackles were removed by the earthquake. The conversion of the Philippian jailer also

resulted because of this. This turned out to be a great time for them. Leaving there they had gone to Thessalonica, where they met opposition to the gospel of Christ Jesus. Leaving there they came to Berea, and there they found noble people who searched the Scriptures to see if what Paul preached was so. We know this was a great experience for Paul, but the agents of Satan always give trouble. The unbelievers of Thessalonica went to Berea and stirred up the people. It was from here Paul sent for two of his co-workers, Silas and Timotheus. While Paul waited for them at Athens, Greece his spirit was in him, and that was because he saw the city, which was known as the capital city of wisdom, ignorant of the true God, knowing nothing about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Friends, that is what stirs the spirit in all God-called preachers, when they see the people who are supposed to teach wisdom being ignorant of the sovereign God of Heaven! That will stir the spirit in any devout believer in Christ Jesus. It stirred Paul to the extent that he disputed with the Jews in the synagogue. This also brought Paul to the market place to dispute with the devout persons. It was then that certain philosophers of the Epicureans and the Stoicks encountered him. They called him a babbler, and they questioned what he said. They brought him to the top place of their city, Mars Hill, and it was there that he saw even more of their idolatry. They worshipped many so-called gods. They were so superstitious they thought they might miss one of the gods, so they had placed an inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Paul used (Continued on page 7, column 1)

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon By Milburn Cockrell

"GOD'S GRACIOUS ELECTION"

"But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth" (II Thess. 2:13)

If there were no other text in the Bible except this text, all would be bound to acknowledge the glorious doctrine of God's election of certain persons to salvation. Yet, many modern day ministers disregard and discard this

text. Some would not preach from it for all the gold in Fort Knox, Kentucky. Many, like Jehudi, would delight in taking a knife and cutting it out of the Word of God. But all of man's cavil and criticism cannot remove from the sacred book God's ancient choice of His family to grace and glory. Whatever God reveals in the Word is for a purpose. All Scripture is profitable for doctrine. It is not ours to cavil and criticize; it is ours to listen carefully and

dispassionately to what God has spoken. We must bow before the Holy Writ and let it be true even if we cannot understand its meaning.

PRETERITION

No text should be separated from its context. Observe the words in verses 10-12: "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. (Continued on page 2, column 2)

The Baptist Examiner

The Baptist Paper for the Baptist People

MILBURN COCKRELL --- Editor
Editorial Department, located in ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, where all subscriptions and communications should be sent. Address: P.O. Box 910, Zip Code 41101.

Published weekly, with paid circulation in every state and many foreign countries.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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Five years — \$7.00; Life — \$25.00
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Entered as second class matter MAY 9, 1961, in the post office at Ashland, Kentucky, under the act of March 3, 1879.

BROTHER WASHER . . .

(Continued from page one)

Paducah, Kentucky of which Bro. Paul was a member and his brother James Washer of Hallandale, Florida, officiated at the services on Friday, May 23.



Dear Bro. Cockrell,

So glad to hear that God has supplied a pastor and editor for Calvary Baptist Church and TBE. May God richly bless you in the work.

A brother in Christ,
Elmer Ingle,
Virginia.

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

I have read many of your sermons and articles and have been blessed by them. I thank the Lord that He was pleased to send such a sound pastor and editor as you. May the Lord grant you grace and wisdom to uphold the truth of God's word, as Bro. Gilpin did so many years.

Sincerely,
Mrs. O. E. Beck,
Arkansas.

Dear Brethren:

Please keep publishing Bro. Gilpin's sermons as I receive so many ideas from his messages each week to preach at our church.

Your in Christ,
T. A. Preston,
Kentucky.

Ed. Note: Yes, and so do a lot of other pastors.

Dear Bro. Gilpin, Jr.,

I'm so grateful that our Lord is helping you to keep the Baptist Examiner coming to us and I feel you are doing a great job, giving out the precious Word without watering down His truths. How it thrills my heart that we have a sovereign God. May our Lord continue to richly bless in every phase of this excellent ministry.

His because of Calvary,
Mrs. Robert Kennedy,
Troy, Ohio.

Dear Bro. John, Jr.,

I think you and all the others have done a wonderful job in carrying on the paper and we as readers look forward to receiving it each week and should appreciate more all the work everyone is putting forth.

I was so happy to hear that you now have a pastor. My hope and prayer is that the Lord will bless the church and supply every need and give the new pastor the strength and courage to carry on

like our beloved Brother Gilpin did for so long.

Thank you for the Memorial Pulpit, which we enjoy tremendously.

God bless you all,
Mrs. Ellen Coxon
Indiana

Dear Brethren:

Greetings in our blessed Lord's name. Calvary Baptist Church of Tampa, Florida praises God for answered prayer in placing Bro. Milburn Cockrell as your pastor. Our prayers will ever be with you and may your work continue well and prosper. We are so happy to share in all phases of your great mission works.

Sincerely,
Pastor W. W. Wilkerson, Sr.
Florida.



"God's Gracious"

(Continued from page one)

And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believe not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

Here we see the subjects of Satan's kingdom who have pleasure in unrighteousness and reject God's truth. These sinners are given over to Satan to be deluded by his instruments. They are given up to their own hearts' lusts. God suffers them to continue in their sins that shall at last bring them to eternal damnation. Love of unrighteousness is the great obstacle in their receiving and believing the truth.

Here we can see the doctrine of preterition. God has left these persons to their infidelity. He has given them up to the deception of Satan and the damnation of Hell. They are said to perish because they receive not the truth. The people of verses 10-12 are distinguished from the elect of God that shall be saved in verse 13.

There can be no election to salvation without reprobation. The Bible teaches reprobation as well as election. In Romans 9, Paul speaks of the elect of God as "vessels of mercy he had afore prepared to glory" (Rom. 9:23). Then, he also mentions "the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction" (Rom. 9:22). Peter in his first epistle writes of some who are "elect according to the foreknowledge of God" (I Pet. 1:2) and who are "an elect race" (I Pet. 2:9). Later, he speaks of some who "stumble at the word, being disobedient: Whereunto also they were appointed" (I Pet. 2:8).

GOD DID THE ELECTING

The text declares election to be an act of God, and not the result of the choice of the elect. This is often mentioned in the Scriptures. In Isaiah 45:4, God refers to Israel as "mine elect." In Mark 13:20, I read of the elect "Whom He hath chosen." Luke 18:7 asks: "Shall not God avenge his own elect?" In Romans 8:33, Paul raises the question: "Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect?" To the Thessalonians Paul said: "Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God" (I Thess. 1:5).

I do not need to prove the justice of God in electing a people from Adam's fallen race to inherit the glory world. God is able to vindicate Himself and has done so in His Word. "Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed any to him that formed it? Why hast thou made me thus?" (Rom. 9:20). See also Isaiah 45:7-10.

God did not chose some to salvation because He saw they would be good. "For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth" (Rom. 9:11). If men cannot be saved by good works, then they cannot be elected by them either. Works of righteousness are the results of election, for

"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."—Mt. 5:48.

I remember when I was a boy, that a swarm of bees alighted in a tree in the corner of our tobacco patch, and my father and brother and I undertook to get that swarm of bees out of the tree and into a hive. I remember how many stings I got as a result thereof. From that time on, one thing I have known about bees is that they know how to sting.

As I turn through the Word of God, I find that there are a number of "Bees" in the Bible, and every one of them has as much of a sting about it as that little fellow that sits down on you and starts drilling with his stinger. I think you will find that every one of these Bible "Bees" carries a stinger.

I

BE SOBER.

We read:

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour."—I Pet. 5:8.

I don't know of anything that needs to be said to the children of God any more than this. We ought to be sober. I know a lot of Christians that are anything but sober. I know a lot of preachers that are nothing but clowns.

A man said to me sometime ago, "Brother Gilpin, I wish I could go to church and hear the Word of God where it was preached without a lot of jokes and jesting

the elect are "created in Christ Jesus unto God works" (Eph. 2:10).

Foreseen faith is not the cause of God's election either. Faith is the effect, not the cause, of election: "As many as were ordained to eternal life believed" (Acts 13:48). Faith is God's gift (Eph. 2:8-9; Phil. 1:29). If God foresaw faith in a person, then there would be no need to elect him to salvation since all agree that faith saves. God foresaw man in unbelief: "God hath concluded them all in unbelief" (Rom. 11:32). Election is absolute, unconditional, and separate from works or faith in the individual.

The early Christians delighted in calling one another "the elect." Peter concluded his first epistle with: "The church that is in Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you" (I Pet. 5:13). John begins his second epistle by saying: "The elder unto the elect lady," and concluded with: "The children of the elect sister greet thee" (II John 1, 13).

Throughout the entire Bible God's people are frequently styled "the elect." The Bible writers were not afraid of the term. The early church fathers used the term often. Many martyrs across the centuries died with the word upon their lips. But in our time un-renewed minds have mutilated and marred the word "election" so as to make it appear to be a doctrine of demons. Shame on the modern church for kicking this foundation doctrine out the back door of the church!

ELECTION IS ETERNAL

God made this choice of His people "from the beginning." This expression is expressive of eternity. It is used in this manner in Proverbs 8:23 and John 1:1. The

that have no connection with the message. My pastor is nothing but a clown." This man didn't say it out of disrespect to his pastor, but he said it because it was true.

I remember one night years ago, I was holding a revival meeting. A preacher friend here in Ashland came into the services one night, and seemingly enjoyed what I had to say. It so happened that Sunday night I preached on the subject, "The Devil and His Work." After the service was over, this preacher jokingly said, "I don't think I ever saw you when you were as full of your subject as you were tonight."

He didn't mean anything particularly bad, but somehow I just didn't appreciate what he had to say, for the simple reason that I don't think the Devil is anything to joke about.

Peter said, "Be sober, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." In other words, Peter would tell us that we haven't any business to joke about the Devil — we are to be sober.

I was in a service several years ago, and the preacher said, "I want to preach to you tonight about the Devil. I think he is in a good mood tonight for me to talk to you about him." Everybody smiled and seemed well pleased with what he had to say, but it just didn't set well with me. I don't think we have any business to joke about the Devil. He is

beginning looks back to eternity past. It refers to a period before the world was created. It suggests a time when all the universe was asleep in the Eternal Mind. To discover the beginning we must go back ages upon ages to when God alone inhabited eternity. In the beginning God chose us to eternal life.

Ephesians 1:4 teaches this truth: "According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world. . . ." The elect were chosen in the counsel of God, not just before they had a beginning, but before the world had a beginning. Those selected and separated from the mass of mankind were given grace "in Christ Jesus before the world began" (II Tim. 1:9).

In Ephesians 3:11 I read of "the eternal purpose" which the Father purposed in Christ. Election was a part of that eternal purpose, for Romans 9:11 speaks of "the pur-

our adversary. He is a roaring lion.

Suppose I were to tell you that there was a roaring lion on the outside of the church door and when the service is over, if you want to, you can go out and twist his tail. Suppose I were to tell you to do that? You would think I was crazy.

Beloved, there is a worse lion waiting for you on the outside. The same lion is even here, inside this auditorium. The same lion is right here on the rostrum with me. That lion is the Devil and I have no business to make any joke with you about an actual lion — a four-footed beast, on the outside of the building. I certainly have no business to joke with you about the Devil, whom the Word of God describes as a lion.

Instead, my text says, "Be sober." We have an adversary, and that adversary is the Devil. We need to be sober concerning the Devil particularly.

As I say, I knew a preacher whom one of his laymen said was a clown. I knew another preacher who was even worse. There wasn't a text of Scripture that he ever preached from, but that he would tell a joke about it. Or if he were talking to you in private conversation, he was always telling you a joke about some portion of the Word of God. He made a joke out of every text in the Bible.

I saw that man when he came to die, and there wasn't one thing that you could read to him

pose of God according to election." Our election to salvation occurred before eternal times.

We are said to be elected according to the foreknowledge of God in I Peter 1:2. Did God's foreknowledge have a beginning? If so, then there was a time when God was not omniscient. The foreknowledge of God is eternal, and consequently, election is eternal because foreknowledge involves election. That which was in the beginning with God had no beginning as far as earthy time is concerned.

Some objector cries: "But the Bible never speaks of an unbeliever as the elect of God. The term is always applied to saved people. Thus election must be in time after man believes the gospel."

But this is not true. II Timothy 2:10 says: "Therefore I endure all this for the elect's sakes, that they

(Continued on page 6, column 2)

Memorial Pulpit

By JOHN R. GILPIN

Our Beloved Pastor and Editor, Now in Glory



"A SWARM OF BEES"



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

"Swarm Of Bees"

(Continued from page two)
out of the Word of God that was of any comfort to him. He had made a joke out of the Word of God, and there was nothing but a joke there for him when he came to die. I stood by his bedside and tried to read to him from the Word of God, but that man got no comfort out of what I read, because every verse of Scripture that I read to him, he had made a joke out of it.

I wonder sometimes if we have any business at all to jest concerning the things of the Lord. The Word of God tells us something about jesting—that we are to be cautious about it.

Listen:
"Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient."—Eph. 5:4.
He is implying that there is some jesting that may be of a convenient nature, but generally speaking, we ought to be mighty careful when we come to the pulpit, or when we come into the house of God, or when we come to study the Word of God, that there be no jesting — no joking about God's Word. The Bible says to be sober.

That doesn't mean that God wants you to go around with a look on your face as if you have been eating sauerkraut and drinking lemonade for the last six months. That doesn't mean that God wants you to go around looking like you are the sole owner of a lemon plantation growing on your upper lip. That doesn't mean that God wants you to go around with a look on your face like you could lick oats out of a ten-gallon churn. I don't think you have any business looking like that, or acting like that, but I do say this: you ought to be a sober-minded individual.

This is my first "be." Did you get stung? I wouldn't be a bit surprised but that this "be" flitted around you a little, for I am satisfied that all of us are sometimes guilty of being flighty. All of us are guilty of a lack

of sobriety concerning God, and God's Word, and the things of the Lord.

II

BE FORGIVING.

We read:

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."—Eph. 4:32.

I am wondering how much you and I need this text of Scripture applied to our own lives. I deal with a lot of people, by correspondence particularly, every day, and growing out of my own experience, and in the light of this text, I am wondering if there is very much forgiveness — Scriptural, Biblical forgiveness — manifested in the lives of the majority of God's children.

Has God forgiven you for Christ's sake. Has God forgiven you because that Jesus Christ died for your sins? Then if He has, you ought to be forgiving toward others in the same measure, that God has forgiven you in Jesus Christ. Listen:

"Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times; but until seventy times seven."—Mt. 18:21,22.

Here is the law of forgiveness as it was laid down by the Lord Jesus Christ. Simon Peter said, "Lord, if my brother sin against me, should I forgive him?" Jesus said, "Yes, forgive him." Simon said, "Suppose he wrongs me seven times. Should I forgive him?"

To the Jew, the number seven meant completion. I suppose Simon Peter thought, "If I forgive him seven times, that ought to be enough," but the Lord Jesus Christ said unto him, "I say not unto thee, Until seven times; but, Until seventy times seven." In other words, He is saying "Simon Peter, don't stop forgiving your brother with seven times. If necessary, go to four hundred ninety times." I don't think He would say for us to stop then,

IS "THAT" IN THE BIBLE?



Question: What students built their own dormitory?

Answer—

The Sons of the prophets, Second Kings 6:1-2. "And the sons of the prophets said unto Elisha, Behold now, the place where we dwell with thee is too strait for us. Let us go, we pray thee, unto Jordan, and take thence every man a beam, and let us make a place there, where we may dwell. And he answered, Go ye." There were several bands of these "sons of the prophets," one at Bethel (2:3), one at Jericho (2:5), and one at Gilgal (4:38). They may have been guilds or brotherhoods, banded together for religious and economic reasons largely, but it is likely that there was an educational aspect as well, for 4:38 says: "... the sons of the prophets were sitting before him: ..." that is, before Elisha, and that phrase would indicate a class before a teacher.

but I think He used that tremendously big number just in order that He might be able to say to us that we ought to be forgiving toward our brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus.

Someone says, "Brother Gilpin, I am always in a spirit of forgiveness. I have already forgiven him. He has done me wrong, but I have already forgiven him." Bosh! You can't forgive anybody until the person asks for forgiveness. You might be in a mood to forgive. You might have the spirit of forgiveness about you, but you can't forgive anybody until that individual asks for forgiveness.

Listen:

"Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee,

rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day TURN AGAIN TO THEE, saying, I REPENT; thou shalt forgive him." — Luke 17:3, 4.

When does it say to forgive him? When he turns in repentance and asks for forgiveness.

I get so disgusted with these individuals who are so sweet, and try to appear to be so exceedingly nice, who say, "Oh, I have already forgiven him in my heart. He did me wrong, but I have already forgiven him."

I say to you, there is not a bit of use lying about it. You haven't done any such thing. Jesus says that you can't forgive anybody until the individual asks for forgiveness. You may be in a spirit to do so, but you certainly can't forgive anybody until that one asks for forgiveness.

We are living in a day when God's children are "scrapping" among themselves, the like of which I never saw in my life. I look back across my ministry and I think in all the years of my ministry (and I have been preaching over forty-five years), I have never seen people "scrapping" in the ministry, and in churches, like they are at the present time. It just looks like that people are so full of themselves, and so selfish, and so fleshly, and so flesh-centered that they just have troubles on top of troubles in churches, and pastors and churches are fussing and splitting. As I said to one man of recent date, "Independent Baptists are entirely too independent."

Brother, sister, we need to be forgiving. I am wondering if we have that forgiving spirit that we ought to have. This little "be" says, "Be forgiving." Did you get stung?

III

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS.

We read:

"Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their

fathers to give them."—Josh. 1:8.

This is in the very beginning of the book of Joshua. The book of Deuteronomy is ended, Moses has died, and Joshua is beginning to lead the children of Israel over into the land of Canaan. He is leading them out of the wilderness into the promised land. Moses had been leading them out of the land of Egypt and out through the wilderness for forty years, but now Moses has died, Joshua is taking over, and Joshua is leading them over the Jordan River into the land of Canaan. As he begins to do so, God says to him, "Be strong and of a good courage."

I like to read this text of Scripture. It means a great deal to me, especially being a preacher. I don't say a preacher has any business being wishy-washy about anything that he does. I think a preacher ought to be strong and of good courage, and he ought to take his stand for the things of the Lord.

There are a lot of things, when you heard them for the first time, you didn't like them. But suppose the preacher hadn't been strong and of good courage. You never would have known the truth you know today. I say that a preacher ought to study this Word of God, get his convictions from the Bible, and then take his stand in regard to it. He ought to be of good courage, and he ought to preach the Word of God. He ought to preach it fully and faithfully and freely, and he ought not hide one single thing.

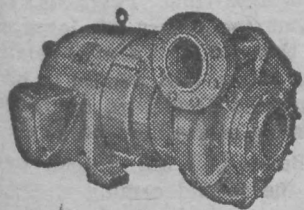
Years ago, a good friend of mine, who was a layman, Brother Joe Willis, was conducting a Bible study on Thursday evening. One Thursday evening, they studied from the 3th chapter of I Corinthians. After the service was over, he said to the pastor, "Next week we are going to be studying the 4th chapter, and that is the chapter that has to

(Continued on page 4, column 3)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
JUNE 7, 1975
PAGE THREE

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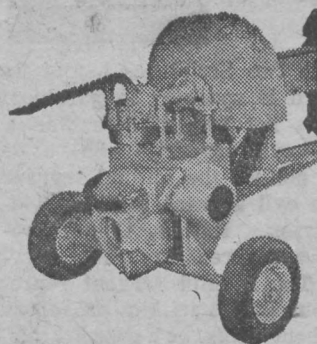


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"Is 'evil servant' mentioned in Matthew 24:45-51 and Luke 12:42-48 a saved man? Where will he spend his portion with the hypocrites?"

JAMES HOBBS

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McDermott, Ohio

RADIO SPEAKER
and MISSIONARY

Kings Addition
Baptist Church
South Shore, Ky.



I believe that the evil servant of these two passages is a religious person who is unsaved. The word "hypocrite" of verse 51 is a word that shows a person playing a part such as an actor. He is playing the part of something, but he is not really that person.

We have a lot of people who play the part of a Christian, but who have never been saved. (There are some Christians who pretend to be Godly, but who are not). Here, I believe, are those who claim to be saved, but who are not.

The evil servant, claims to be a servant, but he shows his true colors when the master does not return at the proper time.

The weeping and gnashing of teeth shows that the location of the punishment is Hell. There is no weeping and gnashing of teeth in Heaven. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away"—Rev. 21:4.

People oftentimes act as if they think that there is something wrong with me because I prefer not to eat in a restaurant where they serve drinks. If you will notice, one of the things that is mentioned about this evil servant is that he began "... to eat and drink with the drunken," verse 49. The Bible admonishes us to "abstain from all appearance of evil"—I Thess. 5:22.

PAUL TIBER

PASTOR,
NEW TESTAMENT
BAPTIST CHURCH
9272 Euclid-Chardon
Road
Kirkland, Ohio



No, the evil servant, mentioned in these passages of Scripture, is not saved for the following reasons:

a) He does not believe for "he says in his HEART, My lord delayeth his coming."
b) His conduct is dictated by what he believes. He is a worldling, therefore he behaves as a worldling.

Our historic and Biblical belief of the powers of our God to keep those whom He has saved does not preclude faith and holiness on the part of His people!

This evil servant clearly, in his heart, is not a follower of Jesus

Christ. If he were, he would never deny the imminency of His coming. The hope (expectation) of the faithful has always been "he that shall come will come, and will not tarry."—Heb. 10:37.

Because he is imminently an unbeliever, it should surprise no Bible student that his eternal destiny should be the same as that of the hypocrite, as well as "the fearful, unbelieving, the abominable, murderer, whoremonger, sorcerer, idolater and liar, who shall all have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone" (Rev. 21:8).

"Behold I come quickly (suddenly); and my reward is with me to give every man according as his work shall be."—Rev. 22:12.

"Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"

ROY MASON

RADIO MINISTER
BAPTIST PREACHER
Aripeka, Florida



It would seem to me that "evil servant" mentioned in these Scriptures is an unsaved man. I cannot see how we could otherwise conclude, for a truly saved person will not spend eternity with the hypocrites. Hypocrites will spend their future in torment, and if this evil servant goes to be with the hypocrites, he is bound to spend eternity with them.

E. G. COOK

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



In the two Scriptures before us our Lord is speaking in parables. He does not say, "There was a certain evil servant." So, as I see it, neither the faithful servant nor the evil servant is an individual person. Rather, they represent two different groups of servants. The faithful servant represents our Lord's faithful preachers throughout this church age. Whereas the evil servant is representative of the false preachers we see in II Cor. 11:13-15 and many other places.

We might call this group Nicolaitanism. We see it budding out in the early churches, Rev. 2:6. Then we see it blooming out in the apostate churches represented by the letter to the church at Pergamos, Rev. 2:15. And then, we see it bearing fruit as the hierarchy in the Catholic Church represented by the letter to the church at

Thyatira. This Nicolaitanism has taken on slightly different forms in the Protestant churches. And O, how sad, but how true, it has begun to bear fruit in Baptist Convention Churches in our day.

Some years ago, I was called upon to serve on the jury in Birmingham. It is a custom here for some preacher to be invited to come to the courtroom and bring a devotion for the benefit of the new jury. At this particular time, the preacher happened to be the secretary of the Birmingham Baptist Association. The judge introduced him as the presiding elder of the Baptist Church in Birmingham. The preacher thanked him for that wonderful introduction.

On another occasion, I was a speaker at a Bible Conference at Grenada, Mississippi in the days of the late B. A. Wilson. Listed as one of the speakers was the pastor of the First Baptist Church of that city who was a brother of R. Q. Leavel, the late president of the New Orleans Baptist Seminary. When he failed to show up, I asked Brother Wilson what the trouble was. He laughed and said, "When this church voted to discontinue the use of the Southern Baptist literature, he called and said, 'Just mark my name off your program, I want no part of it.'" Baptist Convention Churches still have some freedom for which I am so thankful. They are perfectly free to either do as they are told to do, or else get out.

The group of preachers represented by this evil servant will spend their portion with the hypocrites in the lake of fire. They just may have a reserved berth next to old Satan, the beast and the false prophet. How thankful you and I should be that God, by His unmerited grace, has seen fit to keep us out of that group!

"Swarm Of Bees"

(Continued from page three)
do with the women. How would you suggest handling that?" The pastor said, "If I were you, I would just skip it."

Well, Brother Willis didn't heed the words of the pastor. He didn't skip it. He went ahead, and taught it just as it is in God's Word.

Now that was a pastor who wasn't strong, and who wasn't of good courage.

This reminds me of a church that was looking for a pastor, and a fellow came to preach for this church on a particular Sunday. Just after he had gotten up to the rostrum, a deacon pulled him by the coat sleeve and said, "That woman that just came in, her husband runs the saloon in this town. Don't say anything about whiskey this morning."

In a few minutes, he pulled him on the sleeve again, and he said, "That man that just came in is a Campbellite. Don't say anything about the Campbellites."

That went on three or four times and finally the preacher turned to the deacon and said, "Who can I talk about?" The deacon looked around and said, "I don't see any Mormons here; give it to them this morning."

There are a lot of people just like that. They look around to see if there are any "Mormons" present, and they give to the crowd that is not present. But the Word of God tells us to be strong and of good courage.

I tell you, I want to stand up

for the Word of God, regardless of what it costs. I ought to preach to you the truth as to the church that Jesus built. When I preach it, I say that Jesus built a Missionary Baptist Church when He was here in the days of His flesh. I ought to preach to you the five great doctrines of grace, as held by Baptists. I ought to hold up to you the five cardinal truths of God's grace that Baptists have held through the years. I ought to preach to you all of the Word of God. I ought to be strong and of good courage. I ought never to flinch. I ought never to waver. I ought never at any time to hold back in what I believe that God has taught within His Word. "Be strong and of a good courage" was God's message to Joshua.

We had a man preach for us in our Bible Conference a few years ago. I'll not call him by name, although I think perhaps I should. I really think that it would be a good idea to expose him. He preached at our Bible Conference a few years ago a great sermon on the doctrines of grace, and I found out afterwards that that fellow wouldn't preach on the doctrines of grace in his own home church, or if he did, it was as weak as branch water. What was wrong? When he was here where there was a crowd of people that stood for the doctrines of the grace of God, he would stand; he was strong and of good courage. But when he was back home with a crowd of weaklings — with a crowd of sickly Arminians that needed the teachings of the Word of God, he was wishy-washy in regard to what he had to say. He just didn't have courage when he was preaching at his home church.

I say to you, we ought to be strong and of good courage.

IV

BE HUMBLE.

We read:
"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time."—I Pet. 5:5, 6.

Do you know what it means when it says to be humble? Humbleness is not something you can buy in a package in a department store. It doesn't come already packaged. Humility is not something you develop by practicing humility.

A deacon in West Kentucky went to a pastor whom I knew and said, "You are not as humble a man as you ought to be." The pastor very wisely admitted that that was true, but that he wished he were more

humble than what he was. He said to the deacon, "I take for granted that you are a humble man." "Oh, yes," he said. "I am humble, and I take pains to show it, too."

I am afraid there are a lot of people just like that. They take pains to show their humility. But that is not the meaning of that word "humble." That is not the meaning of humility. You don't become humble by practicing humility. Do you know what makes you humble? Listen:

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God that he may exalt you in due time" — I Pet. 5:6.

What makes a man humble? You don't become humble by practicing humility, but you become humble automatically when you observe the sovereignty of God — when you realize the mightiness of God Himself — when as this Scripture says, you observe the mighty hand of God.

I am wondering how much we need this message. I realize my lack of humility, and I am sure you realize yours. I am certain that if there is anything that can make you more humble, it would be to get a greater picture of God in His sovereignty.

Notice again:

"And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no"—Deut. 8:2.

What does this tell us? It says that the Lord led them for forty years in order to humble them. I tell you, there is nothing like a vision of the sovereignty of God and the mightiness and the majesty of Almighty God to produce humility in the life of the child of God.

I won't ask you if you got stung on that one, because I am afraid that there is not enough humility on the part of any of us.

V

BE SPOTLESS AT HIS COMING.

The Word of God tells us to be spotless at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Listen:

"Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless"—II Pet. 3:4.

If you will read the entire chapter from which this is taken, you will find that Peter is talking about the return of Jesus Christ to this earth. He says relative to His return that we are to be spotless, and blameless, at the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Beloved, I am a firm believer in the second coming of the Lord (Continued on page 5, column 2)

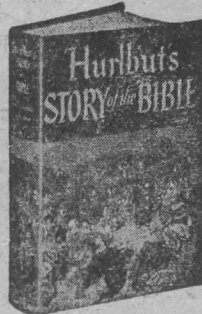
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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

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PAGE FOUR

ADAM'S RIB

WRITTEN BY A WOMAN
AND FOR WOMEN

"JESUS CALLS US"

"And He goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto Him whom He would: and they came to Him" (Mark 3:13).

Here is sovereignty. Jesus went up into a mountain and called His disciples to Him and of this group, He chose twelve to be His apostles. So often we fret and fume because we are not called to the highest places within the church. We are so confident we can do so much better than the one presently there. Rather, we ought to be rejoicing that Jesus calls whom He wills. If He permits us to be door-keeper in His church we will bless His holy name. What glorious privilege just to be a member of this body!

The call of Christ's servant comes from above. Christ stands on the mountain and those whom He calls must go up to Him. Mountain climbing is not the easiest way. It is sometimes wearisome to the flesh. There are pit-falls all along the way. But those who are called keep looking up and persistently continue on. So often, those who desire the highest seats want only the recognition without the responsibility. The higher we are called — the more is required of us. There are long hours of Bible study — more hours of prayer — disagreeable jobs to be done — criticism to be borne, etc. This is all a part of climbing the mountain where Jesus is. And yet, what more glorious place could one be than with Jesus? No wonder Moses' face shone and the disciples came down clothed with power. They had been with Jesus.

There were many believers who served the Lord well and were not required to climb a mountain to do so. Perhaps their particular

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service did not require that type exercise. No matter what our place of service is, we are all servants. We have one thing in common and that is to be found faithful. Oh, that we might be content in the place God has called us to. Contentment with godliness is great gain. One young man when he was saved wanted to go with Jesus and the apostles, but the Lord told him to go home and tell others what great things the Lord had done for him. He was not called to travel with the apostles, but he was expected to be faithful in his own vineyard. "Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when He cometh shall find so doing" (Luke 12:43).

"Swarm Of Bees"

(Continued from page four)

Jesus. I am a Pre-millennialist from the crown of my head to the sole of my feet. I believe in the premillennial return of Jesus Christ back to this world. I believe He is coming back some day. He is going to set up His kingdom, and He is going to reign and rule here in this world. I am looking forward with a great deal of anticipation and expectancy to the premillennial reign and rule on the part of Jesus Christ here within this world. Whenever I read this text of Scripture, I say, "Lord, help me to be spotless when you come." In view of His coming, we are to be without spot and blameless.

Would you want the Lord Jesus Christ to come and find you all spotted with the things of the world? Would you want the Lord Jesus Christ to come back to this world and find you completely spotted with the things of this life?

I remember, years ago, my first trip up the Big Sandy River. The roads were very poor in those days. About the only way you could go was on a train. In those days, there used to be three or four trains daily go up Big Sandy, and three or four to come down. The trains were always crowded, and sometimes it was difficult to get a seat. The first time that I ever rode that train there was a girl who lived here in Ashland who was going to Elkhorn City to be married. Her husband-to-be was working at Elkhorn City and she was going there to marry. It happened that day that I got a seat and this girl sat with me. She told me where she was going, and why she was going, and the fact that she was going to get married. Of course, in those days, they didn't have air-conditioned trains, and if you got any air, you had to open a window. By the time we got to the headwaters of the river, I am sure that I looked like one of the descendants of Ham. I know she did. By the time that we neared Elkhorn City, I know that our faces were exceedingly soot-covered.

She said to me, "Have you been on this train before?" I said, "No, this is my first time." She said, "I wish you would help me. Tell me when we get within ten or fifteen miles of Elkhorn City." I didn't know, but I asked the conductor and he told me when we were nearing our destination. I told her, and she slipped off to the Ladies' Room, and when she came back, she was all washed, and powdered, and looked so pretty. What was she doing? She was getting spotless. She was going to meet a man in a few minutes that was to be her husband, and she wanted to be spotless when she saw him.

When I think about that experience, I remember that I want to meet a Man someday—Jesus Christ. He is coming back to this world, and when He comes, I want to meet Him spotless. This text says, "Be spotless at His coming."

I think of the thing that I want to do in the next year if it is the Lord's will. I want to do a good job for Brother Halliman. I want to do a good job for Brother Burket. I try to do so

every day. I want to do a good job to the best of my ability to be the pastor of this church. I want to do a good job editing THE BAPTIST EXAMINER for the glory of God, and for the blessing that it is to the thousands of people who read it every week, who have no place to go to hear the Word of God preached. I want to do a good job in regard to our Bible Conference, if God leads us to have another. But as much as I want to do a good job in regard to these things, I would be glad if I never edited another paper, I'd be glad if I never took care of another letter to Brother Halliman or Brother Burket; I would be glad if I never preached to you again; I would be glad if I never conducted another Bible Conference—if I could meet Jesus Christ tonight in the air. He said, "Be spotless at His coming."

I wonder how much there is about you and me that is anything but spotless? We are so contaminated by the things of the world. We are so given over to the world. We are so mixed up with the things of the world. God help us to try to the best of our ability to be spotless in view of the fact that Jesus is coming, and that He might come even in this hour.

VI

BE OF GOOD CHEER.

We read:

"But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid"—Matt. 4:27.

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of what you are facing? These disciples didn't know what to think. The Lord Jesus Christ was walking on the water and the disciples were fearful. They thought it might perhaps be a ghost. They didn't realize the full import of it, and they were fearful. But Jesus said to them, "It is I, be not afraid."

I tell you, beloved, there is no need worrying about the things that come in this life. We have a God Who is on the throne. He is a sovereign God and He isn't going to allow one single thing to take place except that which is according to His will. He is the one who says, "Be of good cheer."

Listen again: "And we know that ALL THINGS work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose"—Rom. 8:28.

"In EVERY THING give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you"—I Thess. 5:8.

The further I go in life, the more convinced I am that everything that takes place is according to the will of God, and that same God whose will is being done, says, "Be of good cheer."

I grant you sometimes in view of the things that happen in this life, you certainly need for the Lord to tell you to be of good cheer. There are some things which take place, that you can't understand how the Lord can get glory out of it. Lots of problems have come in my life and I wonder about how the Lord is going

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JUNE 7, 1975

PAGE FIVE

MY PASTOR

He studies the Bible from day to day
To teach us the Word and show us the way;
When sickness or sorrow comes, or strife,
He's there with a kind word to brighten our life;
When troubles and trials threaten, indeed,
He's there to help out in time of need;
He ties the knots for those who get married,
And comforts the loved ones of those who are buried.

He preaches and teaches, comforts and prays,
For Bible study and prayer fill up his days;
He's our under-shepherd and we should follow his leading,

As long as it's Scriptural and not misleading;
He knows what is best and rebukes when we need it,
He is God's spokesman; his word, we should heed it;
Stand by him — yes, criticize him — never!
Pray for him — yes, he is God's messenger.

Mrs. Ramona L. Pierce,
Tampa, Florida.

to work them out—how He is going to get glory out of them. I look back across the years that I have been trying to preach the Word of God and I have often said to myself, "How can God get glory out of many of the things that I have said and done—my speech and my actions? How can God be glorified?" I know one thing: He said to be of good cheer and there isn't anything going to take place in this world, and nothing is going to come into your life, but what He says to you, "Be of good cheer."

I have had, as you well know, a facial condition, for the last two and one-half years. I might as well be honest and say that it is worse than it was. Before I get through preaching, I am in considerable misery, and it is almost impossible for me to finish the sermon. To tell you frankly, as far as my face is concerned, I have one advantage that I never had before in my life. I can be just as nasty to people as I want to be, and they can't swat me here on this side and I would never feel it. Even though this old face causes me an awful lot of pain and grief on one side, I come back to this fact, I am going to keep right on trying to serve Him, because He said, "Be of good cheer."

I say to you, as you face your problems tomorrow, and in the days to come, whatever they may be, be of good cheer. God is on His throne. He knows what is best. He is doing what is best. He is leading you in the best way possible for you. He says, "Be of good cheer."

VII

BE PATIENT UNTO HIS COMING.

This is something that you and I need so much. We are so impatient. We do so many things we had not ought to do because of our lack of patience. But God says to be patient. Listen:

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord"—James 5:7.

I ask you, do you have very much patience? I wouldn't want you to tell me you had, because the majority of us fail greatly

in this respect. However, He tells us to be patient. Why? Because the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

Every since I have been in the ministry I have been looking for the coming of Jesus Christ. I can remember forty years ago that I made a statement, that I hoped Jesus came soon, because if He didn't, I didn't see how God's children could go on in a world like this world is. Time has passed by. We have come down through the years, and I say to you, there are more signs relative to the soon-coming of the Lord Jesus Christ tonight than I ever saw before in this world. The things that appear in the newspapers, and the announcements on the radio, are but indications how soon the appearing of Jesus Christ is to take place in this world. In view of that soon-appearing, He says, "Be patient."

Are you patient in your work in the services of our church, and in your home? Are you very patient? The coming of the Lord is drawing nigh, and He says in view of that, we ought to be patient.

VIII

BE HOLY IN YOUR CONVERSATION.

We read:

"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy"—I Pet. 1:15, 16.

We ought to be mighty careful as to what we say, in what we repeat, and in what we talk about. What an unruly member the tongue is! How badly that tongue gets us into trouble! The Word of God says concerning the tongue:

"Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet they are turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire

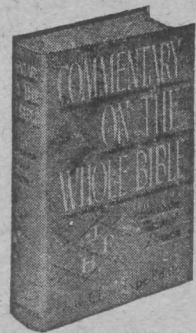
(Continued on page 6, column 1)

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"Swarm Of Bees"

(Continued from page five)
kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity; so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell"—James 3:3-6.

James says that you put a bit in a horse's mouth, and with that little bit you can turn a horse around. He says you can turn a ship with a very small instrument. He says that the tongue is a little member, but it likewise boasts of great things.

Beloved, your tongue is a dangerous thing. There is in the base of your mouth an animal—a wild, vicious, ferocious animal—living, from which you ought to guard yourself every day. Because of it, we are told to be holy in our conversation.

IX

BE PERFECT.

We read:
"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect"—Matt. 5:48.

This doesn't mean physical perfection. It doesn't mean sinless perfection. It doesn't mean that you are ever going to attain the position that you are sinlessly perfect, but it implies development, growth, and godliness. He says the goal for your life is the perfection of God. Just as God is perfect, we are to seek to be perfect, too. You'll never be as perfect as God the Father. You'll never come to the place that you will have the perfection that the Father has, but that is to be our goal just the same.

CONCLUSION

I have given you a swarm of "bees:" be sober, be forgiving, be strong and courageous, be humble, be spotless, be of good cheer, be patient unto His coming, be holy in your conversation, and be perfect. All this, I think, grows out of this text which says, "Be perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

I ask you, have any of these "bees" stung you tonight? If you would dare to stand up and say that you haven't been hurt by anything that I have said, and that you haven't felt your littleness and imperfections in the light of what I have said—if you would say that, I would say that you certainly are some liar. I'll be frank with you, I don't think you or I can read these texts that I have read to you, without getting stung by this swarm of bees several times.

May the Lord bless you, and may the Lord help you as a Christian to let your life be lived in the light of these "bees" that I have given to you tonight.

If you are unsaved, might it please God to give to you His grace tonight to save your soul and to add you to this body.
May God bless you!



"God's Gracious"

(Continued from Page Two)

may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory." Here are some persons who are elected and who have not yet believed the gospel. Jesus spoke of "the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matt. 10:6). In John 10:16, He said: "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd."

ELECTION IS PERSONAL

II Thessalonians 2:13 teaches that election is personal: "God hath from the beginning chosen YOU." God did not choose nations, or things, or classes. He chose individual persons. Divine election is individual, particular, and discriminatory.

In Deuteronomy 7:6, it is written: "For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth." Here election is of persons and by free grace.

It is written in John 15:19: "I have chosen you out of the world." Observe the choice of certain persons out of the mass of mankind. It is this choice which distinguishes the elect from the non-elect.

Individual election to salvation is disclosed in John 13:18: "I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen." Election does not concern all, for God chose some like John and Peter and passes by others like Judas. Christ does not here refer to their choice to apostleship as Arminians claim, for even Judas was chosen to that.

Some believe God elected nations, not individuals. But what difficulty have they solved. If it is unjust to choose a person, then it is even worse to choose a whole nation! Nations are made up of individuals.

ELECTION TO SALVATION

Election is not salvation, but it is unto salvation: "God hath chosen you to salvation." It is not

that God foresaw they would be saved, and consequently, He elected them. This salvation is the effect of their election. God chose a people to salvation to assure them of Heaven, for without election no one would ever be saved.

Men are saved because they are the elect, and all the elect shall be saved. God not only chose His people, but He also ordained the means necessary to accomplishing their full and final salvation. In Romans 8:29-30, Paul declared: "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the first born among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called; and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."

Everyone of those elected to salvation and predestinated to sonship will be called by the Spirit through the gospel. The elect are called with an efficacious call to obtain the glory world. It is the act of grace through which God effectually calls the elect to faith.

Everyone of those elected to salvation and predestinated to sonship will be called by the Spirit through the gospel. In the text Paul not only says: "God has chosen you to salvation," but he goes on to say: "Whereunto he called you by our gospel to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (II Thess. 2:13-14). The elect are called by the gospel to obtain the glory world. It is an act of grace through which God effectually calls the elect to faith, and thereby to participation in the glory of Christ.

THROUGH SANCTIFICATION OF THE SPIRIT

Our election to salvation is "through the sanctification of the Spirit." "Through" denotes the means by which election to salvation is realized. The decree of election connects the end and the means, and these cannot be separated. Those the Father chose are the ones Christ died for and the ones the Spirit sanctifies.

God chose us not because we were holy, but that we should be holy (Eph. 1:4). The sanctification of the elect means the universal renovation of our nature into the image of Christ (II Cor. 3:18). It means we have been made alive spiritually and set apart from those who are dead in sins (Eph. 2:1). The Holy Spirit comes to indwell the bodies of the elect to make them the holy temple of the Lord (I Cor. 6:19-20).

Never think you are one of the elect unless you are holy. Do not say, "I am elect," and continue to live in sin. The elect of God are made holy. They are not perfect or spotless, but the general course and tenor of their lives is toward holiness.

If you live in fear of God, try to please Him, obey His commandments, and search the Scriptures, then be assured your name has been written in the Lamb's book of life before the foundation of the world. But a man cannot be the elect of God and not follow the way of holiness. He who claims to be such is a liar.

In I Peter 1:2 I read: "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, UNTO OBEDIENCE . . ." Peter tells us election is to obedience. The end of election is sanctification and the results of sanctification is obedience. In I Peter 1:22 the elect are said to have purified their souls by obeying the truth.

BELIEF OF THE TRUTH

My text teaches that every one of the elect will be brought to faith. God's choice unto salvation was "through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth." Hence, we read in Titus 1:1 of "the faith of God's elect." In Romans

8:29-30 we are told that the predestinated are justified, and justification is by faith (Rom. 5:1). Those who deny that God gives all the elect faith, would attempt to break God's golden chain of grace.

The Bible is as clear on the elect receiving faith as it is their receiving salvation and eternal life. "As many as were ordained to eternal life believed" (Acts 13:48). God gives grace to believe to all those ordained to eternal life. The secret and mighty operation of the Spirit causes them to believe through grace (Acts 18:27). They come to Christ in faith because the Father draws them (John 6:37).

James 2:5 reads: "Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith . . ." In John 10:26 Christ said: "But ye believe not because ye are not of my sheep," implying that all the sheep do believe. In John 6:37 Christ said: "All that the Father giveth me shall come unto me." In John 6:35, Jesus shows that coming to Him is believing on Him.

Do not be deceived. There is no dark decree back in eternity which will save you unless you believe in Christ. To sit down and assume you are saved without faith and holiness is an abominable heresy and has ruined thousands. If you continue to believe such, it will be your ruin.

THE BLESSING OF THIS

Election humbles man. It fixes it so no human flesh can glory in God's presence. It teaches that God saves us by free grace since there was nothing in us that moved Him to select us more than others. We can only fall down prostrate at the feet of Omnipotence and cry: "Lord, I am nothing but a sinner. Why me? Why me?" His only answer is: "It seemed good in my sight. It is lawful for me to do what I will with my own."

Sovereign selection exalts God. It puts God in His proper place. It sets Him forth as sovereign and supreme over all creation. It reveals Him as the One "Who worketh all things after the counsel of His Own will" (Eph. 1:11).

Election makes the salvation of some certain. All of God's elect will be sanctified by the Spirit and brought to faith in Christ. Satan with all of his deception can never deceive even one of those chosen to salvation. It is impossible for the elect to be deceived, according to Mark 13:21. What blessed assurance to know God will bring all His people home to the glory world without the loss of any!

Divine election is no discouragement to seeking souls. It declares a great multitude shall be saved out of all nations. If so many, then why not you? But how can I be sure I am of that allotted number? Will you admit the justice of election? Will you acknowledge you deserve nothing from God? If so, then you are not far from the kingdom. Do you believe in Christ with all your heart? If so, then you have made your calling and election sure. You are one of those whom God chose from eternity to salvation.



"Fall Of Man"

(Continued from page one)

most of the time, because this little creature called man refused to co-operate with God. I say unto you that God is all powerful and His strength never fails, and because of the omniscience and omnipotence of God we can be assured that what He has promised He is able to perform. If we believe that God really has these two attributes, we must admit that God placed man on the footing He wanted him on. If God had chosen to do so He could have kept Adam from falling. God had all knowledge and all power. He could and did apply these attributes to Adam as He was pleased to do so. In plain language, beloved, I say that God gave Adam all of the knowledge and strength that He wanted him to have.

God created man in His own image. He created man holy. God

did not create man with all of His own attributes such as knowledge, strength, and immutability. He made man subject to change. If our great God of Heaven and earth had been pleased to make Adam immutable he could not have fallen. Holiness is the fundamental attribute of God, and is therefore the image of God in man. In the fall, Adam became unholy, unlike God, or ungodly. In regeneration, there is a renewal of the image of God in man. Listen to the Bible:

Eph. 4:24: "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

Then listen to:

Col. 3:10: "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him."

Eph. 1:4 says that God saved us, "that we should be holy."

Up to now we have talked about the creation of man. Now let's get on into the subject.

II.

THE FALL OF MAN

God, in making man mutable, made his fall possible.

Adam was not placed straddle of the fence with a free choice of climbing down on either side. This would cast uncertainty upon the accomplishment of God's purpose. Omniscience and omnipotence cannot be uncertain about anything. The fall of Adam cannot be based entirely upon the freedom of choice in Adam, though he did choose to be with his wife instead of with God. Before there was such a creature as man, before God spread the North over the empty place and hung the world upon nothing—God had elected His people to salvation from this fall. God's precious Son was a lamb slain from the foundation of the world. God had written their names in the book of life. Listen to the Word of God:

Eph. 1:4: "According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love."

This says He chose us before the foundation of the world and this was before the fall. Listen again to God's Word:

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

This says that in salvation God acted according to His own purpose.

If Adam had chosen to climb down on the other side of the fence, God's purpose and plan would have been upset. Adam would have played a trick on God and left Him kicking around in a state of confusion and defeat.

Eve would have been driven from the garden and Adam left in it, separated from each other by Cherubims and a flaming sword. While Adam feasted from the tree of life, Eve would have been out side the garden tilling the ground with sweat rolling down her face, only to reap thorns and thistles. And with husband and wife separated, the race could go no further. Beloved, God is not mixed up like that. He knows what He is doing and is able to do it.

The fall of man could not have been based entirely upon natural desire. We first have to figure out how a holy creature could make an unholy choice. And how Adam, being a holy creature and the only man on earth, suddenly became unrestrained and chose to be with his wife instead of obeying God.

I agree with Bro. T. P. Simmons. He said Adam, being immutable, could remain steadfast in his original state only by the power of God. God withdrew His restraining power from this mutable creature and his upright nature was disordered — just as the entire universe would fall apart without the restraining hand of God. (Continued on page 7, column 2)

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PAGE SIX

"Repentance"

(Continued from page one)

this as his text, telling them this God, that was unknown unto them, was the God that he would declare unto them. Athens, Greece is not the only place where people are worshipping many gods. All over North America we see the same thing Paul saw. The Arminians have a god they say that wants to save people, but they the people won't let him. Friends, a god that man has the power to stop from saving him, is not the God of the Bible, but rather an idol god. Then, we have those that say God is a loving god, and will not send any one to a place to be punished for their sins — that He loves people too much to send them to a place where there is an everlasting fire. Most of them that say this, have just taken Hell and everlasting fire out of their way of teaching and preaching. Those who believe and teach this do not believe in the God of the Bible.

Then, we have those who say we do not need to hear a preacher to be saved, that the god they believe in will give them a dream, or some kind of vision, and that is the way that their god saves people. We believe in dreams and visions, but the God of the Bible commissioned the church by her Head, Christ Jesus, to go into all the world and preach the gospel. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, and he that believeth not shall be damned" Mark 16:15,16. So we can safely say the people who say all they need is a vision or a dream to be saved, their god is not the God we know that is in the Bible.

Then we have those who preach and teach that baptism is part of our salvation. We say the god that needs water to wash our sins away is not the God I know. Also, we have the great multitudes of people that say they believe they do not curse, neither do they drink strong drink — they have always done good. Why, even the prophet, Isaiah contradicts their belief, by saying, "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags" Isaiah 64:6. So the "do-gooders" god is not the God of the Bible. We could go on naming many more ways that people say their god is, and what they say they believe, but this is all we need to show why our spirit is also stirred in us — because of their idolatry. Paul heard the gospel. We believe he heard what deacon Stephen had said, when he held the coats of the men who stoned Stephen to death. No doubt, he had heard many others testify to their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Then, on the Damascus road he had come face to face with our Lord Jesus Christ, and he knew Him. For people to have many gods they were worshipping would stir the spirit of any born-again believer. These people of Athens, Greece thought they knew more than Paul did, that is why they called him a babbler.

Many of the educated people today think they know more than the man that God has saved and called to preach, but we contend that all that God calls to preach, He also qualifies them to preach. They are ignorant when God saves them, but when God calls them to preach, they study to show themselves approved unto God, a workman that is not ashamed, and they can rightly divide the truth. Remember, Jesus said, "My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God" John 7:16, 17.

It is good to learn in school when we are young and learn as much as we possibly can. But we should never get to the place just where we think, because we know where to end a sentence, and mark, and how to always dot our I's and cross our T's, that this

makes us superior.

At Athens, Greece that was the case. They had plenty of wisdom, but remember, Paul called them ignorant, and said God had winked at this time of ignorance, but now He commanded all men every where to repent. God has a reason, why all men every where should repent, and here is why. Paul said: "Because he hath appointed a day, in which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead" Acts 17:31.

Remember when Satan approached mother Eve, he did not come to her at first telling her to openly disobey God, but rather, he said this: "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" Genesis 3:1-5.

We can see from this account of Satan and Mother Eve that she wanted this wisdom, which is the wisdom of the world. "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat" Genesis 3:6. Yes, that was the deceptive work of Satan, making this first woman believe that she would obtain a wisdom making her equal unto God, knowing things.

That is the greatest trouble of the world today. For the last quarter of a century or more, people have made great strides in worldly wisdom, inasmuch, that they have invented things to attract the people to make them be more interested in the things of the world, than the things that our forefathers taught us. Just think of how many families stay at home and watch the television instead of going to church. Think of the great number that are being taught to disbelieve in the Scriptures, by worldly wisdom. Great hordes of people are running over the country telling people that they are Jehovah witnesses, and that what we have always been taught before was wrong, and that they are the witnesses. Then on the radio and television there are Herbert and Ted Garner Armstrong, telling people that the church Jesus established in the days of His flesh went into oblivion in A.D. 57, and did not come back into known existence until they started their radio and television church of the air and picture tube. That is nothing short of a barefaced lie. Both them and the so-called Jehovah witnesses are Satan inspired, and the products of worldly wisdom.

We see them just as Paul saw the city of Athens, Greece — wholly given to idolatry. Our text says, "The times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent" Acts 17:30.

Another class of religious people are saying let us unionize, all come together, and forget about our differences — what we need is unity. To this people we say if you believe that, and you have really from the heart trusted the sacrificial offering of the body of Christ Jesus, once for all, for the sins of the elect of God, and you want unity, why not be baptized Scripturally by an authorized preacher that believes all the Scriptures? If you do not believe in all the Scriptures, then you are not believing in the God of the Bible. "Jesus said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him

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that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" John 5:24.

We believe in unity with the people that believe and follow the Scriptures, that is, we believe as the first church at Jerusalem believed, and they were in unity with all the Gentile churches that thus believed; however, each church was independent. Jerusalem was not over the other churches, neither was the Gentile churches over other churches. They were in unity as to the doctrine of the Scriptures. Paul was one of the most learned preachers we have any history of, but because of his much learning, he was not over all the churches, even those that were established by him as their missionary. The only reason why he wrote epistles to these churches was because it was not possible for him to visit them at the time. They all had their own pastors.

However, Paul was interested as to the edification of each church that he established, and wanted (Continued on page 8, column 5)

"Fall Of Man"

(Continued from page 6)

God justly and in holiness permitted Adam to fall. Adam belonged to God and it was lawful for Him to do what He would with His own. To deny this is to reply against God. Beloved, an omnipotent God could have prevented the fall of Adam if He had been pleased to do so. Through the fall of man, God expressed His hatred for sin, and in turn reveals His own holiness, then brings glory to Himself by redeeming fallen creatures.

III. The Effect Of The Fall

God had said the day ye eat hereof thou shalt surely die, and die they did. In the fall of man, all the powers of nature were depraved, polluted, and corrupted. His understanding was darkened. Listen to the Word of God:

Eph. 4:18: "Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:"

Not only was his understanding darkened but his mind and conscience was defiled. Titus 1:15: "Unto the pure all things are pure; but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled."

He became obstinate and rebellious. Adam along with all of his descendants has insisted upon the pursuit of ungodliness since the day of his fall. Being spiritually dead, he could have neither the will nor ability to yield to any treatment for his horrible disease, apart from the sovereign grace of God. Beloved, I don't believe we can fully appreciate our salvation until we see where we were when the mighty hand of our Sovereign God reached down and saved us.

"Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan,
Oh, the grace that brought it down to man,
Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span —
At Calvary."

The carnal mind of a fallen man

cannot be subject to the law of God. Rom. 8:7: "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." It is not that a fallen man merely doesn't want to be subject to God's law, but neither, indeed can be.

His affections became carnal and sensual. Listen to Eph. 2:3: "Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."

Beloved, man has fallen so far from God that he can't even have a righteous thought. Genesis 6:5: "And God saw the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thought of his heart was only evil continually." His whole mind and heart became a poison, polluted pocket of every kind of abomination. Jeremiah said in chapter 17:9: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Then again, the Lord said in Matt. 15:18, 19: "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies."

Not long ago some lady said her husband had a good heart, but he was lost. The Bible denies that there is any such thing as a good heart in an unsaved man.

Adam was separated from God by a Spiritual death, and in this death every thing pertaining to holiness left him. He could produce nothing but corrupt offspring. Rom. 5:12: "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Here is the death.

Psa. 51:5: "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." Here is the continuity of it throughout the race.

Psa. 58:3: "The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies." Here is the evidence of it.

Man is totally depraved, including the will. He couldn't overcome the Spiritual death into which he had fallen, nor turn away from the physical death to which he was approaching. The Word of God says in Heb. 9:27: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

Beloved, this is one appointment that every fallen man must keep. The thousands of funeral homes and cemeteries through the world bear witness to the truth of it. There is no way for man to be reconciled to God except God by His grace, both provide and perform reconciliation according to His own purpose and grace, and that is just exactly what He does for His elect people. Listen to the Word of God again: II Tim. 1:9: "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not ac-

Eld. Fred T. Halliman Missionary To New Guinea



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According to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began."

I have faced many haters of this precious doctrine, but I have never found one to tell me how he could get out of death except God elects to quicken him. Every child of God looks forward to the resurrection when we will be raised from the dead, if we should die before His coming. That will be a glorious day, beloved, but we will be raised by God's power and not our own. Jesus said in John 6:44: "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." Just as sure as we come from the grave by the power of God, we, also, come out of Spiritual death by the power of God. Listen to John 5:25: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live."

This is Spiritual death He is referring to. Then notice verse 28: "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice."

I praise our precious Lord for election. That is the only escape from the fall. May God bless this message for His glory!



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**GIVE US READERS
We Will Give Them The Truth**

Open Letter

(Continued from page one)

ize now it just was not God's will or time for such a work to be established here in Johnson City, Tenn. Bro. Souder, Bro. Boggs and myself came to the conclusion we could no longer work with those whom we thought to be desirers of truth and lovers of God's word. These people just did not seem to ever see or understand total depravity, election, predestination or any of the doctrines of grace; neither the truth that Jesus established the First Baptist Church. The only truth they seemed to accept was eternal security, that being, of course, conditionally based on what they had done — "good works" and a "mere profession of faith."

Bro. Souder was called to another work. Bro. Boggs and myself then searched until we found a fairly sound church. At least, they had been organized out of one of the oldest churches in Tennessee. The pastor, Bro. Creed Green, was a very sound preacher of the grace of God and church truth.

We attended this church, Roan Hill Baptist Church, for a long time before uniting with her work. We wanted to be sure they were sound on grace and church truth. We found this to be true and presented ourselves, for membership, and were accepted by statement. While there we read in T.B.E. that Bro. T. P. Simmons was called to Columbus, Ga., where Bro. Johnston was pastor of a large Baptist church, to establish a Bible School — The school bearing the name Southern Baptist Bible Seminary. Bro. Boggs entered this school, united with the church and was eventually called as assistant pastor — and was then a very able preacher.

At the same time Bro. Green resigned as pastor of Roan Hill Baptist Church. I recommended to them Bro. Souder, but the Lord was not pleased to have him become pastor. They called a pastor who wanted to grow great in numbers, and make a fair show. He once had a woman to speak who was the association missionary of another association. The men all left out at that service. Later, they practiced open communion. This I could not stomach and like the large fish that swallowed Jonah, I was forced to vomit again at such a work of Satan being practiced. I wrote a letter asking my family membership to be removed and stating why. While this was taking place, Bro. Souder had been called to pastor the Mount View Baptist Church.

My family and I began to attend services at Mount View Baptist Church. After a short time, we became members by statement of faith. We were accepted by statement. While a member there I was invited to preach for a church in Southwest Virginia, Occonita Baptist Church, who did not have a pastor, being recommended by my good friend and former pastor, Gerald Price, who had become acquainted with Bro. Frank Beck, T.B.E. and Bro. Gilpin, and was at this time a very able and very sound preacher whom I respect and love very much.

After preaching for the Occonita Missionary Baptist Church for eight Sundays, I was called as their pastor the first Sunday in August, 1956. I was ordained by Mount View Baptist Church, (Charles Souder, pastor) at the request and help of Occonita Baptist Church, Occonita, Virginia, on Sept. 24, 1956.

While there I preached at least one time on Scriptural baptism, believing all along that I had met all the requirements of Bible or Scriptural Baptism.

After some time I was invited to preach at Temple Baptist Church, Appalachia, Va., on Oct. 21, 1962.

Later, I was called to be their pastor . . . Dec. 9, 1962. This was a great experience for a young inexperienced preacher to follow two most able preachers, Bro. Gerald Price and Bro. Joe M. Wilson, whom I love and respect very much.

While their pastor I endeavored to preach and teach Scriptural Baptism. I had spoken on the subject at least once, all the while believing I had met all the things necessary to qualify a believer for Scriptural baptism, that being:

1. A Scriptural subject:
I believed then, and now, one must be a believer, "born again," a child of God, having heard the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, Rom. 1:16, John 1:11-13. One who has heard His Word, believing in Jesus Christ, and as a result has passed from death into life. John 5:24. One who has been delivered from the power of darkness and has been translated into the kingdom of God's dear son. Col. 1:13.
2. A Scriptural mode . . . by immersion only:
In order for this to take place there must be much water. John 3:23. This was the practice of the early church throughout the Scriptures.
3. A Scriptural purpose or design:
I do not, nor have I ever, believed that Baptism saves. But Baptism is a picture, a figure, a symbol.

Webster tells us a symbol is something that stands for or represents another thing.

I Peter 3:21 tells us baptism does not save, but is a figure or picture or a symbol (stands for or represents) the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

So baptism symbolizes our putting on Christ. Gal. 3:27. It is a picture of the death, burial and resurrection of our precious Lord. Rom. 6:4-5 tells us we are buried with Him by baptism into death (stands for or represents the new life in Christ). That like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we should walk in newness of life. Baptism proclaims the death of our old life to sin being buried (stands for or represents the new life in Christ). We are resurrected to walk in newness of life.

4. But now last, but not least, is the Scriptural authority, Matt. 28:18-20: This is why I was re-baptized or Scripturally baptized. This also I have believed for many years, but I thought or considered the church which I first became a member of to be Scripturally organized under church authority. This may have been true — they may have been organized by church authority and have authority to baptize others. I have tried to find out how they were first organized for a long time, having in the past talked much to a former pastor, who just never could find out as to who or how they were organized.

I had also talked many times on this subject to the oldest living member of that church, a deacon, who says the work was started by an ordained Baptist minister as a Sunday School. They, later, organized into a church, but he has said repeatedly that he just does not know if they were organized by another church having church succession and authority. He also helped build the first church building in which they met to worship and conduct services. To me the authority of a church to baptize disciples and carry out the commission that Jesus gave them, must of necessity have been organized by church authority and not by any person or even an ordained Baptist preacher or minister who has not church authority. Having found this out for myself and after calling Bro. Gerald Price, who was pastor of this church for a number of years in his early ministry, he informed me he, too, had tried in vain to find out by whom they were organized. After this search for truth concerning their organization, and their authority, I questioned whether I actually had

Scriptural baptism. This I wanted to be sure of.

After much prayer and study of this matter of Scriptural baptism, especially the authority to administer the ordinance (that being only a local new Testament Baptist Church, with proper beginning and authority), my motive in writing this is to help others who might be in the same condition. I presented myself to Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Sunday morning, Aug. 11, 1974, for Scriptural baptism.

A motion was made and seconded and a vote taken in favor, and I became a candidate for baptism. I was baptized Sunday afternoon, Aug. 11, 1974, and given the right hand of church fellowship, Sunday night, Aug. 11, 1974. The pastor, Bro. Howard Sheppard, and several members of Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Oneco, Fla., had conducted a revival (under authority of Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Oneco, Fla.) in Johnson City, Tenn.

I have great respect for Occonita Missionary Baptist Church, Occonita, Va., Temple Baptist Church, Appalachia, Va., and Mount View Baptist Church, Watauga, Tenn., where I had previously held membership; also hold love and respect for both of my former pastors, Bro. Gerald Price and Bro. Charles Souder.

I am proud to be a member of Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Oneco, Fla., working with the mission they have established here in Johnson City, Tenn., of which mission Bro. Carl C. Jenkins is our faithful mission pastor.

Your brother in Christ, Who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, Rev. 1:6.

Edmond Dempsey,
515 North Gilmer Park,
Johnson City, Tenn., 37601

P.S.: I will be ordained to preach the gospel in the near future.

Editor's Note: Ordinarily, we do not publish letters of this length on any one subject, but considering the importance of the subject in relation to the drift of the times, we feel it worthy.

"Repentance"

(Continued from page seven)
them to believe the doctrines of the Scriptures. That is why he wrote this, "Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God. For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: "So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia" I Thess 1:4-7. Yes, the early churches had unity, but it was in believing the Word of God, and not union with something false. God has commanded people to repent from this and turn to Him, and become followers of the teachings of the Scriptures.

To be true to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we cannot go along with the Arminians, neither can we go along with the preachers of just love from God, and no Hell or punishment for unbelief. A thousand times no, we cannot go along with them; neither those who say baptism is a part of our salvation, or the crowd that claim their works have saved them.

Our advice unto all the aforementioned—God has commanded you to repent because out yonder in the future, God has a day appointed in which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained (Acts 17:31) — that man is Christ Jesus.

May it please God to cause someone to turn to Christ and trust him for their salvation. God bless you!