

AMERICA 1975-76 AND BEYOND

By **RAYMOND A. WAUGH, SR.**
Midland, Texas

Columbus, it is said, "sailed the ocean blue" and "discovered America in 1492." The Vikings are supposed to have done as much some 500 years earlier. Yet, more than 1500 years before either discovery, God let it be known through His prophet Jeremiah that He was both aware of "The Great Nation" on "the sides of the earth," and that He had plans for it.

America's Confused Relations

Today we see a great deal of confusion regarding America's relations with the nation of Israel. On one hand we hear that our nation is sending planes, arms, and ammunition to Israel so she can defend herself against the Arabs. At the same time, America makes up similar orders and sends them to the Arab countries. Even more ironical and perhaps unimaginable is the truth that we are training both Israel and Arab personnel right here in this "peaceable land of the free and the home of the brave."

Who are we trying to fool?

The evidence is that we are "running for both goals." We are "pitching for both teams." We may suppose that we are fooling the crowd, but God can see quite easily that we are "tossing the ball into the baskets at both ends of the court." Very simply, we talk to the Israelis as though we were their friends, and at the same time we assist their enemies militarily. We talk to the Arabs as though we were their friends, and all the time we are supplying their enemies with an arsenal of weaponry. In a very real sense we have become "a house divided against itself."

America's Military Folly

We may suppose our importance as a nation will cause God to smile knowingly at our duplicity. We may think that we are so mighty as a military power that we really do not have to care what God thinks about anything.

There was a time when America set an example for the world as a peace-loving nation and one who used her powers to assure freedom

to those who called upon her. But years ago America became involved in a pattern of thinking



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which led her first into the Korean fiasco and more recently into Viet Nam. In the Korean fiasco (which

is still officially seen as a police action), we lost more than 50,000 of our finest lads and gained no victory for anyone.

More recently, America raised her mighty land, sea and air power in an assault upon a nation with about as many people as there are in New York state. We used almost as much power in our attempt to subdue the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong as was used to secure the continent of Europe and defeat Hitler's war machine. We took and lost a hundred hills and more and many valleys several times, but victory was beyond our grasp.

Earth's greatest nation, America, apparently is incapable of winning.

America's Policing Folly

As a people, we evidently have not learned that God never gave any nation the right to police the world. The Babylonians tried to and today there are none of them round even to stir up Middle East dust. Alexander tried it and found it a thankless accomplishment, one worthy only of tears. Rome arose

to make the same mistake and learned to her sorrow that the attempt could only contribute to her downfall.

We have tried policing the world more recently, and we still suffer internally and externally because of our folly. The evidence is in, we do not improve the "freedom circumstances" of those whom we help. Rather, we simply depleted our resources, destroyed the finest of our young men, and unbalanced our economy to such an extent that many learned men question whether we can ever really be America again.

We have mocked the God of Heaven in our government and supposed there would be no day of reckoning! Now the day of reckoning has come! The dollar cannot stand the strain. The records which we would like to have kept hidden in the archives in the dungeons of our Capitols are now displayed before a questioning and an antagonistic world with or without our approval. And, in accord with Luke 12:2, we can know that this is (Continued on page 5, column 2)

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

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"BAPTISTS" — THEN AND NOW

By **MILBURN COCKRELL**
Editor of Baptist Examiner

In the year of 1843 there was an independent Baptist church standing for the historic Baptist faith in northeast Mississippi. This was 19 years before Mississippi seceded from the Union and 26 years after she became a state. This was two years before the Southern Baptist Convention was organized and 63 years after the organization of the first Baptist church in the state. James K. Polk was the President of America in those days.

The minutes of a meeting of this church is as follows: "On Saturday before the fourth Lord's day in October, 1843, the Mount Pisgah church met according to appointment, and after preaching and prayer proceeded to sit in conference. The union of the church was inquired into, and finding all in order, the door of the church was opened for the reception of members and none came forward. . . . There being no further business, the church was dismissed." Samuel Adair was the moderator, and Henry Clifton the church clerk. The minutes of Pisgah Church, near Tremont, Miss., indicate that slaves were accepted as members

of white churches. In other words, the Negro had more liberty then than now. The minutes of the July, 1854, meeting tell that Susan, a black sister, was admitted for baptism and church membership. On Saturday before the fourth Sunday in November, 1853, "the doors of the church were opened for the reception of members; whereupon Sister Burch and a black woman, Hannah belonging to her, came forward and upon a profession of their faith in Christ were received by the church to the ordinance of baptism. . . . In 1854 there was admitted to the church "Jim, a servant of William Clifton, and Henry, a servant of Bro. Henry Clifton."

The Mount Pisgah Baptist Church was strict on Bible morality. In the minutes of 1860 it is recorded: "There being a rumor afloat that Sister A. M. had been guilty of dancing. Therefore, it was moved and seconded that we appoint Martha Medley and Sister Ford to see her, and request her to come forward, and to give satisfaction at the next conference. . . ."

In the March, 1860, church conference the results is seen: "It

was moved and seconded that we take up the case of Sister A. M. When the committee reported that she confessed her guilt and said the church might exclude her, after a few remarks, the case was put to the church for decision and resulted in her exclusion." C. Deavours was the moderator, and H. Clifton the church clerk at this conference.

UNION GROVE CHURCH

Not many miles from Mount Pisgah is the Union Grove Baptist Church, Tilden, Miss. The editor had the pleasure of being pastor of this church for six years (Continued on page 8, column 3)

TUNE IN TO THE INDEPENDENT BAPTIST HOUR

EACH SUNDAY

WCMI Ashland, Ky.
7:30 - 8:00 a.m.

WFTO Fulton, Miss.
1:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Do Not Attempt To Serve A Great God And Mammon

By **WILLARD WILLIS**
Monroe, Ohio

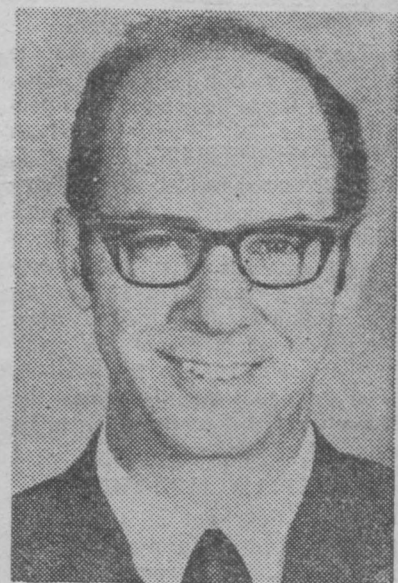
their god. It is as stated in Luke 16:19-24:

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Matt. 6:24).

Our Lord, in the Scriptures which precede the one before us, has been drawing a sharp line between the true and the false. He has been comparing the two worshipers—the genuine and the hypocrite. He has also set before us the heavenly treasure which is lasting and the earthly treasure which is lost by using or by decay and thievery. Our God has also set before us the single eye and the evil eye. Now, He advises us that we cannot serve two masters. The two masters being God and mammon.

Those who serve mammon are those who make material things their chief goal. They, in many cases, did not intend to make mammon their god; but soon they found themselves missing church services and laying their Bible aside, because there was not enough time to serve God and dig gold and pleasure out of the earth, too. They have the mistaken idea that wealth and earthly pleasure will bring them happiness. Those, however, who have followed such a course will find, as others have found, that the god of mammon will only bring them darkness and despair. The late Onassis, if he could come back from his grave today, would surely warn people of the darkness and misery that awaits all who make "mammon"

"There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: and there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which



WILLARD WILLIS

was laid at his gate, full of sores. And desiring to be fed with the crumb which fall from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into (Continued on page 7, column 4)

WHAT IS IT FOR?

The above is a common question. Let one go to a manufactory, and become interested in the machinery, and he is almost sure to ask the question, "What is this for?" Have we ever asked ourselves the question, "What was God's purpose in saving us, who believe in Christ?" The following is a six-fold answer:

1. **God-ward.** That we should obey Him (Deut. 5:15; 8:1,2; 15:15; 24:18,22; John 14:21).
2. **Christ-ward.** That we should have fellowship with Him (I Cor. 1:9; I John 1:3).
3. **Spirit-ward.** That we should be occupied by Him (I Cor. 6:19; Eph. 1:13, 14; 4:30).
4. **World-ward.** That we should be separate from it (John 17:16; I John 2:15-17).
5. **Satan-ward.** That we should overcome him (I John 2:14; 5:18; Eph. 6:11).
6. **Self-ward.** That we should deny it (Luke 9:23; John 12:25, 26)—F. E. Marsh.

BE CAREFUL

A minister, suddenly called away and unable to officiate at the Christmas services in his own church, entrusted his new assistant with the duty. When he returned home, he asked his wife what she thought of the young man's sermon.

"The poorest I have ever heard," she said. "Nothing in it at all. It didn't even make sense."

Later that day, the minister, meeting his assistant, asked him how he had managed.

"Fine, sir, absolutely wonderful," he said. "I didn't have time to prepare anything myself, so I preached one of your old sermons."

—Maranatha

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon By Milburn Cockrell

THE SPIRIT'S PART IN THE COVENANT OF GRACE

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God" (I Cor. 2:9-10).

It is fitting to give some attention to the role of the Holy Spirit, having already considered the parts which the Father and the Son took in the covenant. The Spirit of God was not a mere bystander

when the covenant was made before the foundation of the world. When the Father and the Son were formulating this compact, the Spirit was certainly a party to that solemn transaction. The "eternal Spirit" (Heb. 9:14) gave His consent to every article of the covenant as did the other two members of "the eternal . . . Godhead" (Rom. 1:20).

In the Everlasting Covenant the Father chose a people from Adam's fallen race to obtain the glory world. The Son agreed to die for

those the Father chose. The Spirit consented to apply to the covenant people the benefits and blessings of Christ's redemption. That the Spirit did such can be seen from the interest which He and the Father had in sending Christ into the world. In prophecy Christ said: "Now the Lord God, and his Spirit, hath sent me" (Isa. 48:16). The Spirit would not be mentioned in such a fashion if He did not participate in the forming of the Covenant of Redemption.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

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The Spirit's Part

(Continued from page one)

The spiritual blessings given the
covenant people in Christ (Eph.
1:3) are made known to God's peo-
ple by the Holy Spirit: "God hath
revealed them unto us by His Spir-
it." All that the Spirit does for the
covenant people He does because
of His covenant obligations. When
He reveals to the elect their inter-
est in the covenant, He is fulfilling
His covenant engagements. "Now
we have received, not the spirit
of the world, but the Spirit which
is of God; that we might know the
things that are freely given to us
of God" (I Cor. 2:12).

THE SPIRIT AND THE SON

In the Covenant of Grace the
Spirit agreed to form the human
nature of Christ in which He would
suffer for the covenant people. The
angel told Joseph concerning
Mary: "For that which is conceiv-
ed in her is of the Holy Ghost" (Matt.
1:20). To Mary the angel said:
"The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee,
and the power of the Highest shall
overshadow thee: therefore also that
holy thing which shall be born of thee
shall be called the Son of God" (Luke
1:35).

The man Christ Jesus could say
in a very definite sense: "The
Spirit of God hath made me" (Job
33:4). The Spirit produced the body
of Christ in the womb of a virgin
according to the model found in
the book of God's decrees: "My
substance was not hid from thee,
when I was made in secret, and
curiously wrought in the lowest
parts of the earth. Thine eyes
did not see my substance, yet
being imperfect; and in thy book
all my members were written,
which in continuance were fash-
ioned, when as yet there was none
of them" (Psa. 139:15-16).

The work of the Spirit in Christ's
conception in Mary's womb was
done without human instrumentality
that Christ might be free from
the pollution of sin. The human
body of Christ was so wonderfully
made that Christ could say to the
Father and Spirit: "A body hast
thou prepared me . . . in the vol-

ume of the book it is written of
me" (Heb. 10:5-6).

The Spirit of God filled the hu-
man body of Christ with gifts and
graces without measure. Of the
Messiah John the Baptist said:
"For God giveth not the Spirit by
measure unto him" (John 3:34).
Isaiah pictured the Father saying
to Christ: "Behold, my servant,
whom I uphold; mine elect, in
whom my soul delighteth; I have
put my Spirit upon him" (Isa. 42:
1).

The Holy Spirit officially anointed
Christ at the commencement of
His ministry. In Acts 10:38 we are
told "how God anointed Jesus of
Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and
with power." It appears from Mat-
thew 3:16 that this occurred when
He was baptized. From that time
forth Christ could say: "The Spirit
of the Lord is upon me, because
he hath anointed me" (Luke 4:18).
Christ went about His earthly min-
istry "in the power of the Spirit"
(Luke 4:14). He performed mira-
cles in the power of the Spirit
(Matt. 12:28). By the Spirit He
spoke as never any man spoke be-
fore (John 8:46) and taught with
great authority (Matt. 7:29).

The Spirit of promise was in-
volved in the atoning work of
Christ. Hebrews 9:14 says: "How
much more shall the blood of
Christ, who through the eternal
Spirit offered himself without spot
to God, purge your conscience
from dead works to serve the liv-
ing God?" Not only was the Di-
vine nature supporting the human
nature of Christ, but also the Di-
vine Spirit assisted Christ in the
act of offering Himself.

The Spirit had a concern in
Christ's resurrection because of
His covenant engagements. The
Spirit of God is "the Spirit of him
that raised up Jesus from the
dead" (Rom. 8:11). By this Christ
was "justified in the Spirit" (I
Tim. 3:16) and declared "to be
the Son of God with power, accord-
ing to the Spirit of holiness, by
the resurrection from the dead"
(Rom. 1:4).

The Spirit of glory was the One
who helped Christ after His pas-
sion when "he through the Holy
Ghost had given commandments
unto the apostles whom he had
chosen" (Acts 1:2). During all the
life of Christ on earth, the Spirit
glorified Him and continues to do
so (John 16:14). All of this the
Spirit did according to covenant
agreements and settlements. The
Spirit would have never taken part
in these things had He not been a
party to the Eternal Agreement.

THE SPIRIT AND THE ELECT
The Spirit not only agreed to do
certain things for the Son during
His humiliation, but He also
agreed to do certain things for the
elect. There is a special intimate
fellowship between the Father and
the Son. Even so there is a special
intimate fellowship between the be-
liever and the Spirit: "The Spirit
of God dwells in you" (Rom. 8:9).

The Father promised the Son
that the elect should be redeemed
from all their iniquities: "For I
will be merciful to their unright-
eousness, and their sins and their
iniquities will I remember no more"
(Heb. 8:12). In fulfillment
of His covenant agreement Christ
"gave himself for us, that he
might redeem us from all iniquity"
(Tit. 2:14). His death freed the
elect from the curse and condem-
nation of the law. It secured them
from the wrath and everlasting
fire their sins deserved.

But it is the Spirit who actually
applies the benefits of Christ's re-
demption to the covenant people.
"Elect according to the foreknowl-
edge of God the Father, through
sanctification of the Spirit, unto
obedience and sprinkling of the
blood of Jesus Christ" (I Pet. 1:2).
The Spirit is the applicator of the
blood of Jesus. He so applies it to
them that it may be said: "But
ye are washed, but ye are sancti-
fied, but ye are justified in the
name of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and by the Spirit of our God" (I
Cor. 6:11). The Spirit takes the
blood of Christ, the blood of the
covenant shed for the remission

Memorial Pulpit

By JOHN R. GILPIN

Our Beloved Pastor and Editor, Now in Glory



"THESE NECESSARY THINGS"

"... these necessary things."
—Acts 11:28.

Let me remind you, beloved
friends, that every man born into
this world is born spiritually dead.
He is just as dead to God as a
corpse is to this world. Most peo-
ple don't like to face that fact,
but it is the truth just the same.
A corpse can get out of the cas-
ket, lay aside the burial shroud,
and walk out of the building, un-
aided and unassisted, just as eas-
ily as a lost man can save him-
self apart from the Spirit of God.

That is why it is that an unsaved
man can't do anything to save him-
self. It is impossible for you to do
anything whereby you might be
saved.

"There is none that understand-
eth, there is none that seeketh af-
ter God"—Rom. 3:11.

Some preachers may tell you to
seek the Lord, but the Word of

God tells us that there is none that
seek after God. How could you ex-
pect a dead man to seek the Lord?
How could you expect a man who
is as spiritually dead as a corpse
is physically to seek the Lord? Be-
loved, it is the Lord that does the
seeking.

"What man of you, having a
hundred sheep, if he lose one of
them, doth not leave the ninety
and nine in the wilderness, and go
after that which is lost, until he
finds it?"—Luke 11:4.

Notice, beloved, the sheep
doesn't seek the Saviour. It is the
Saviour that seeks the sheep. The
sheep doesn't get on the shep-
herd's shoulders, but it is the
shepherd, when he has found the
sheep, who puts the sheep upon
his shoulders and goes home re-
joicing.

Beloved, no man seeketh after
God, for every unsaved man is

spiritually dead, and a dead man
can do nothing.

That leads me to say that there
are four things necessary for one
to be saved.

GOD MUST ELECT ONE UN- TO SALVATION

Chronologically, that is the first
thing that must be done for you.
If God doesn't elect a man unto
salvation, that man will never be
saved.

I have been impressed when lis-
tening to an evangelist of national
repute, by the number of times
that he urged the people to seek
the Lord. I listened to him for
twelve evenings, and in not one of
those twelve sermons that I heard
him preach did he ever tell a man
how to be saved. Instead, his in-
vitation was for them to seek the
Lord. On one of those evenings, I
(Continued on page 3, column 1)

Lord" (II Cor. 3:18). When the
Spirit of grace is poured out, the
child of grace looks upon Christ
who died for his sins (Zech. 12:10).

This divinely-wrought vision of
Christ dying for the sinner is the
means of his repentance of sins
and his godly sorrow. Christ gives
repentance: "Him hath God exal-
ted with his right hand to be a
Prince and Saviour, for to give re-
pentance to Israel" (Acts 5:31).

Faith in Christ comes from
Christ's redemption: "Who by him
do believe in God" (I Peter 1:21).
But it is the "Spirit of faith" (I
Cor. 4:13) who gives the sinner
faith in Christ: "No man can say
that Jesus is the Lord, but by the
Holy Ghost" (I Cor. 12:3). To the
Corinthians Paul said: "To another
faith by the same Spirit" (I Cor.
12:9). The faith by which we are
saved is "the gift of God" (Eph.
2:8-9). The joy and peace which
comes to us in believing is
"through the power of the Holy
Ghost" (Rom. 15:13).

WITNESS OF SONSHIP

The Father promised the Son
that His seed would be adopted
and declared to be sons and daugh-
ters of God. In view of Christ's
work of redemption, the Father
said: "Ye shall be my sons and
daughters" (II Cor. 6:18).

The Holy Spirit makes this prom-
ise real to the covenant people:
"Ye have received the Spirit of
adoption, whereby we cry, Abba,
Father. The Spirit itself beareth
witness with our spirit, that we
are the children of God" (Rom.
8:15-16). Galatians 4:6 declares:
(Continued on page 6, column 3)

of sins, and sprinkles it upon the
conscience in order for the sinner
to have peace and pardon. The
covenant people then have their
hearts "sprinkled from an evil con-
science" (Heb. 10:22).

SPIRIT OF PROMISE

The Holy Spirit comes upon the
child of grace to bestow the bless-
ings promised in the Everlasting
Covenant. Hence He is called "the
Spirit of promise" (Acts 1:4). The

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Spirit is the great promise of the
covenant: "That the blessing of
Abraham might come on the Gen-
tiles through Jesus Christ; that we
might receive the promise of the
Spirit through faith" (Gal. 3:14).
The blessed Comforter is concern-
ed in the application of every
promise to the elect. He applies
the promise to them at the proper
seasons and keeps up their hopes
until the redemption of their bod-
ies. "For we through the Spirit
wait for the hope of righteousness
by faith" (Gal. 5:5).

SPIRIT CONVICTS OF SIN

The Spirit of the Covenant con-
victs people of the principle and
practice of sin. Jesus said: "And
when he is come he will reprove
the world of sin, and of righteous-
ness, and of judgment" (John 16:
8). Without this powerful revela-
tion of the Spirit to the sinner, no
one can be saved. The Spirit con-
victs and convinces the heirs of
the covenant of their sins of
thought, word, and deed. He causes
them to see their inability to make
atonement for sin. He reveals the
insufficiency of their own right-
eousness and the suitability of
Christ's righteousness. He convicts
of the judgment of God which no
one can escape.

REGENERATES THE ELECT

Because of the Father's love and
mercy and the Son's work of re-
demption, the Lord saves us "by
the washing of regeneration and
renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Tit.

The Spirit is the efficient cause
of regeneration; the written Word
is the instrumental cause. The
Father willed to use the Word in
accomplishing our spiritual birth:
"Of his own will begat he us with
the word of truth" (Jas. 1:18). The
written Word in the hands of the
Spirit is "the word of life" (Phil.
2:16; John 6:63). We learn from
John 17:20 that those the Father
gave to the Son and the ones He
prays for are those which shall be-
lieve through the preaching of the
Word.

GIVES REPENTANCE AND FAITH

The Father promised the Son
that the elect would be brought to
know their covenant Father. "It
is written in the prophets, And they
shall be all taught of God. Every
man therefore that hath heard, and
hath learned of the Father, cometh
unto me" (John 6:45). The Lord
said: "For all shall know me, from
the least to the greatest" (Heb.
8:11).

God's people become acquainted
with Him by the Spirit revealing
Christ and His redemption to them.
We are made to behold "the glory
of the Lord" by "the Spirit of the



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every page, our attention is called to something which typifies
the work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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"Necessary Things"

(Continued from Page Two)

heard him make this statement; "I won't guarantee that if you seek Him, He will save you; but I will tell you that He never yet has saved anybody that did not seek Him."

Beloved, that is a lie. Saul of Tarsus wasn't seeking the Lord the day that Jesus Christ saved him. Saul was on his way to Damascus to persecute the Christians. He wasn't seeking the Lord. He wasn't seeking salvation. Instead, beloved, he was doing everything he could contrary to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When God spoke from Heaven and smote him and knocked him from his horse, it was an humble man that got to his feet and said, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Saul wasn't seeking the Lord; it was the Lord that sought him.

Listen again:

"I am found of them that sought me not"—Isa. 65:1.

I say to you, God is found in men who never one time sought the Lord. Rather, the Lord sought them.

It is not necessary that men seek the Lord, but rather, above everything else, God must elect one unto salvation. Unless God chose you unto salvation before the foundation of the world, you will never be saved. It is God that makes the choice.

"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.

It is God who chose men unto salvation. I don't say that the choice God makes is salvation, but it is unto salvation and results in the sinner's salvation. It is God that makes the choice.

I'll never forget when Evangelist Hyman Appleman came to Ashland several years ago. One night as he was preaching, he looked down in my direction and said, "I understand that there are a number of people around Ashland who are troubled about the doctrine of election." Beloved, I always had a feeling that he was saying it for my special benefit, for he was looking straight at me. Anyway, he went on to say, "I can explain election to you like this: God votes for you, the Devil votes against you, and you cast the deciding vote." I could not shake my head negatively fast enough against that kind of preaching, for, beloved, you don't cast the deciding vote. The deciding vote was cast by God before the foundation of the world when God chose you in Jesus Christ.

"And when the Gentiles heard this they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as MANY AS WERE ORDAINED TO ETERNAL LIFE BELIEVED"—Acts 13:48.

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise

IS "THAT" IN THE BIBLE?



Question:

WHAT WOMAN JUDGE HELD COURT UNDER A PALM TREE?

Answer: Deborah, Judges 4:4,5.

"And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time. And she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim: and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment."

cast out"—John 6:37.

I challenge you to find anywhere in the Bible where a person ever believed who wasn't first chosen of God unto salvation. There isn't a promise in all the Bible where there will ever be anyone else come to Jesus Christ other than those who were the love gift of the Father to the Son before the foundation of the world. You can seek the Lord until you are black in the face. You can start seeking Him right now and keep on seeking Him every day of your life until you die, but if God didn't choose you in Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world, you will never be saved.

Listen again:

"But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you"—John 10:26.

In Jesus' day some of the people did not believe. God's Word does not leave us in doubt as to the reason, for Jesus tells them that they have not believed because they were not His sheep. They had not been given to Him by the Father as a love gift before the foundation of the world.

We read:

"Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, HE HATH BLINDED THEIR EYES, AND HARDENED THEIR HEART; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.—John 12:39, 40.

"For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ORDAINED TO THIS CONDEMNATION, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ"—Jude 1:4.

This would tell us, beloved, that there are people who can't believe, and who are ordained to condemnation. These will bring just as much glory to God as the salvation of others, as both will vindicate His Word.

I say then, in the light of God's Word, God has to elect a man to salvation before that individual can be saved. Perhaps you may not believe it, but I fall back on this: God said it, I believe it, and that settles it. Or, perhaps you don't understand it. Beloved, if

you could understand everything that God did, you would be just as big as God. The God I preach to you is a God who made the world and who fills the universe—a God of majesty and sovereignty and power.

The first thing that is necessary for one to be saved, is that God has to choose that one unto salvation.

II

JESUS CHRIST HAD TO DIE.

If the Son of God had merely come into this world and lived a perfect life, which He did live, but had not died, not one individual would have ever been saved. You can't be saved by your goodness, nor by the goodness of Jesus Christ. You can't be saved because Jesus Christ lived a perfect life when He was here in the days of His flesh. Beloved, there is only one way that any man can be saved, and that is that Jesus Christ died to pay his sin debt and died in his place at Calvary.

The Word of God tells us that Jesus Christ had to die.

"Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death; tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt"—Mt. 26:36-39.

What was this cup about which Jesus was praying? It was the cup of death. It was the cup which was filled with the dregs of the sins of all the elect of God, from the first one that was saved to the last man that shall ever be saved. As Jesus neared Calvary, burdened down with the weight of the sins of the elect of God, though He came into this world to die for their sins, He prayed that "this cup" might pass from Him.

Beloved, it wasn't possible that that cup pass from Jesus Christ. It wasn't possible that the Son of God should escape death. Instead, it was written from before the foundation of the world that He was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

"... the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world"—Rev. 13:8.

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS according to the scriptures"—I Cor. 11:3.

"Who HIS OWN SELF BARE OUR SINS in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed"—I Pet. 2:24.

"For Christ also hath ONCE SUFFERED FOR SINS, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit"—I Pet. 2:24.

In the Old Testament we read the story of the Passover lamb. The Israelites were getting ready for the observance of that first memorable Passover, and they were told to kill a lamb and put its blood on the sideposts and on the lintel, above the door. God said:

"And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt"—Ex. 12:13.

Beloved, that Passover lamb had to be killed for that first-born to be saved. The Passover lamb is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ, for we read:

"For even Christ our passover (Continued on page 4, column 3)

A REVIEW OF REFORMED BAPTIST ECCLESIOLOGY

By R. E. POUND II

Route 1, Aberdeen, Mississippi 39730

On John Thornbury's Treatise

"THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH"

Dear Brother T:

I must continue with my points in conclusion and replication to your chapters one and two. I trust that all is well with you and yours. May God help us to see more clearly the N.T. order and system and then follow it, is my prayer!

14) If we are to fellowship those brethren who are not according to the traditions received from the Apostles, then where are the statements to the effect that we are and that the commandments not to do so, are no longer in effect?

What provisions are made for fellowship on the basis of the UNSEEN, INVISIBLE, MYSTICAL ORDER OR POLITY? WE HAVE MANY PROVISIONS MADE FOR VISIBLE FELLOWSHIP, BUT WHERE ARE THOSE FOR MYSTICAL OR INVISIBLE, SO-CALLED TRUE FELLOWSHIP? Where are we commanded to join with those who were heretics or disorderly and who walked not according to the truth and commandments of Christ and are in open violation to Christ's laws? Or, perhaps, God did not see far enough into time and did not know that we would need to fellowship on the invisible order and join with those who destroy God's Word and Christ's commandments. See II Timothy 3:16,17 for Biblical sufficiency.

15) The truth is that there are NO PROVISIONS WHICH FAVOR THE COMMUNION AND THE WORKING TOGETHER WITH THOSE WHO ARE NOT WALKING ACCORDING TO THE VISIBLE ORDER AND TRADITIONS OF THE N.T. AND ITS AGE. There are no provisions in the N.T. for such fellowship and polity. And those who walk not according to the N.T. order have been spoken about plainly, but not in the manner of joining with them, hand in hand, but we are not even to receive them into our houses. It matters not if that is personal houses or church houses, the same is true either way! We are not to join with them or to bid them God's speed. We are to reject them, to shun them, to leave them alone. Give us one statement in which Paul changed his mind and told us to fellowship and receive those who walked not according to the N.T. patterns and order, see II Thessalonians 3:6.

16) The only obedience I find in the N.T. is that which is based on VISIBLE ORDER AND POLITY! I find a fellowship based on the foundation of Christ and His apostles and prophets. I find that if anyone builds not according to that order and polity, he will suffer loss but he, himself will be saved, if one of God's elect. I find all I need to find out about walking, according to visible traditions and commandments in the N.T. But, I have not found one scripture anywhere which teaches me about an invisible or mystical body and those whom I am to fellowship who belong to the ghost body and disobey Christ's words and commandments. I need a scripture which teaches me that I can no longer tell a tree by its fruits or a fountain by its water. Please do help us poor, unlearned, conservative Landmark Baptists out on this point. Bro. T., will you give us such a scripture and help us? For after all, all that we can find in our Bible is based on VISIBLE WALKING AND VISIBLE SERVICE TO CHRIST IN VISIBLE CHURCHES AND BY VISIBLE ORDER AND POLITY!

17) For your church position to be correct God's people must fellowship a church which is built upon Christ, His apostles and prophets, plus Augustine, Luther, Knox, Zwingli, Henry the VIII, and JOHN CALVIN! John Owen and other English Puritans would help them out a bit also. But, then, this would not be because these men all held to VISIBLE ORDER AND PURPOSE in their work and claimed a VISIBLE CHURCH SUCCESSION. But if God wanted a continuing Revelation like a cheap soapbox opera, then He should have said so, otherwise we believe Ephesians 2:19-22.

18) Again, N.T. fellowship is based on visible and orderly polity. The entire spirit of different denominations with their different governments, different baptismal modes, subjects and purposes, their different ministerial orders, is nowhere sanctioned by the New Testament order, polity and spirit. Try to place Brother T's ideas and mystical body with all its confusing differences and antagonizing doctrines and practices into the N.T. period and then see what will happen.

19) The unity of the N.T. churches and brotherhood is that of a visible, spiritual unity. They are both joined together from the seven unities of Ephesians 4:4-7. But Reformed Baptists would have us add to these and make faith two-fold; baptism several-fold; and have two different and opposite bodies. There is only ONE KIND OF BODY, FAITH AND BAPTISM! Those who differed from this unity the Bible says to let them alone, note them and have no fellowship or company with them, do not receive them into our houses, and do not bid them God-

(Continued on Page Five)

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CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

P.O. Box 910—Ashland, Kentucky 41101

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

JANUARY 24, 1976

PAGE THREE

The Baptist Examiner Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT TO:

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER — P. O. BOX 910 — ASHLAND, KY. 41101

"Did the belief in a pre-tribulation rapture begin in 1830 with Miss Margaret MacDonald of Port Glasgow on the south bank of the Clyde River in western Scotland?"

ROY
MASON
RADIO MINISTER
BAPTIST PREACHER
Aripeka, Florida



No, this view of the rapture did not begin in 1830 with Miss MacDonald. It began with our Lord Jesus Christ back in the first century A.D. Read what Jesus said about His return, and you will see that this is true. Likewise, the Apostle Paul teaches a pre-tribulation rapture. If the tribulation was planned to come before the rapture, people would know that Christ's coming was not right ahead, and besides this, saved people would have to go through the expression of the horrible wrath of God, but I Thess. 5:9 says: "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ."

Some insist that Christians will have to go through the great tribulation, and they are so insistent that one could get the idea that they want to go through the tribulation. Maybe they do, but I sure don't. Our troubles in this life are Satan-provided. Often we sin until we deserve chastening. God merely lifts His protective care from us and Satan afflicts us. But during the Tribulation, the terrible things that happen will not be of Satan, but of God. God is not going to visit His children with these afflictions, for "God hath not appointed us unto wrath."

JAMES
HOBBS
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PASTOR
Kings Addition
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South Shore, Ky.

I am going to assume that the person who asked this question is asking it in honesty because he heard it from someone else. Frankly, I feel that the person who started such an idea ought to fall on his face and beg forgiveness from God.

Let me make one thing clear, I do not hold to any doctrine that was started by man or woman. What I believe regarding this is, of course, a Biblical doctrine and therefore taught by God and not man.

We are clearly told that we who are saved by the grace of God will be caught up to be with the Lord. "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be CAUGHT UP together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (I Thess. 4:16,17). We are also told that we cannot know the day nor the hour. "Watch therefore, for ye cannot know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh" (Matt. 25:13). Let me remind you that when the two witnesses are killed and lay for three days on the streets before being resurrected we know that there are three and one-half years before He comes to the

earth. Any doctrine that causes God's people to watch for the Antichrist instead of Christ is not of God. Any doctrine that takes our mind off of the coming of Christ at any time is not of God.

Getting back to the question, I do not know of Miss MacDonald. Let me say, however, that if she believed the Bible relative to the Pre-tribulation rapture of the saints, then she showed more Scriptural discernment on this subject than some of my brethren do today.

PAUL
TIBER
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Belief in the pre-tribulation rapture began with Jesus of Nazareth in the city of Jerusalem in the land of Palestine about 2,000 years ago (Matt. 24:35,36) — this belief was further taught by Paul the Apostle of the city of Tarsus about fifteen years later.

E. G.
COOK
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Philadelphia
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I will have to admit that I do not know the first thing about Miss MacDonald. I do not recall having ever heard of her. And no one need write and tell me that I don't know much. I already know that. I got my encyclopedia down in an effort to learn something about this lady, and, lo, and behold, the authors of my encyclopedia did not seem to know anything about her. But if there was such a person, and if she did believe in the pre-tribulation rapture, I am glad of it. I rejoice when I hear of people believing the truth. But if she did believe that wonderful doctrine she had no more to do with the teaching of it than John Calvin had to do with the doctrines of grace. The doctrines of grace were there long before there was a John Calvin. The same is true concerning the pre-tribulation rapture and Margaret MacDonald. I am persuaded that we could all profit from going to the precious old Book for our teaching.

If I Cor. 10:11 is true, and I believe with all that is within me that it is, then the fact that Moses came down off Mt. Sinai three different times settles the question for all time with me that our Lord will actually come three different times. He came the first time nearly two thousand years ago. He will come for His saints any day now. And then He will come with His saints seven years later to set up His kingdom here on this earth. During that seven years His wrath will be poured out upon this old wicked world.

Then in Dan. 9:24 we see there were to be seventy weeks determined upon Daniel's people, the Jews. Then we find that sixty-nine of those weeks ended with the crucifixion of Christ. That left one more week of seven years in which God will be dealing with Daniel's people. If that is not to be during

the great tribulation, called the time of Jacob's trouble in Jer. 30:7, then I need to start my Bible study all over again, because I sure have learned it wrong the first time. It is true that Christ started the church at Jerusalem before He was crucified. But He did not give her the great commission until after His resurrection. And then after He gave her the commission He told her to wait there in Jerusalem until they received the power and authority to carry out that commission. So the church age began on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came upon the church and gave the authority for what she had been told to do. The church did not start on the day of Pentecost by any stretch of the imagination, but the church age did start on that day. So Daniel's sixty-ninth week ended at the death of Christ before the church age began. And I am fully persuaded that the church age will end at the rapture just before that seventh week of Daniel's prophecy begins.

Then in Rev. 1:19 John was told to make three divisions of the book of Revelation. First, he was to write about what he had seen. This he did in chapter one. Then he was told to write about the things which are. I believe we all agree that the things which are speaks of the churches, or of the church age. This he did in chapters two and three. And then he was to write about the things which shall be, not hereafter, but after these things. This he did in chapters 4-19. Now if we do not try to wrest the Scriptures, this verse is self-explanatory. If you will permit it to do so it will explain itself clearly. This last division deals with the things which shall be after these things. Now what things is he talking about? The answer is there before your very eyes. He is talking about the things which are, that is, about the churches. One dear post-trib Brother said to me, it means after the things John saw in chapter one. But he smiled when he said it, as much as to say, I don't really believe that myself.

In Rev. 4:1 I see, what to me, is such a clear type of the rapture. And it takes place immediately after the churches in chapters 2-3 and immediately before the tribulation we see in chapters 4-19. In chapters 2-3 I see nothing about the tribulation except in 3:10 where our Lord's true churches are to be kept out of it. And in Chapters 4-19 I see absolutely nothing that even resembles a true church. So, as I see it, if you accept the teaching of pre-tribulation rapture all the whole Bible fits together perfectly. But for me to accept any other teaching concerning the rapture I would be forced to do a little wresting of the Scriptures. And I don't like the idea. So let us forget John Calvin and Margaret MacDonald and just take the precious old Book straight.

"Necessary Things"

(Continued from page three)
is sacrificed for us"—I Cor. 5:7.

The Passover lamb had to die. Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of that Passover lamb, and He had to die that you and I might be saved.

In the days of our Lord, when Nicodemus came in the night to talk to Jesus, Jesus urged upon him the necessity of the new birth. Jesus used a familiar illustration, for He said:

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up"—John 3:14.

When the children of Israel

were bitten by the serpents, in order to get a remedy for the snake bites, they were to lift up a serpent made of brass on a pole within the center of the camp. Everyone that looked to that brazen serpent would be healed of his snake bite. Likewise, beloved, any individual that is saved from his sins, has to look up to the Cross where Jesus Christ died to pay for these sins.

Beloved, Jesus Christ had to die. There will never be any individual in Glory except on the basis that Jesus suffered his Hell and paid his sin debt. Because Jesus suffered for him, that individual is saved.

THE WORD OF GOD HAS TO BE PREACHED.

There will never be any person in Glory except on the basis that he heard the Word of God, which told him about the Lord Jesus Christ and brought salvation to him.

Some preachers' specialty is sob stories. I knew of a church that has been cursed for years by a preacher whose specialty is one sob story after another. There are thousands of such churches. The Word of God has never said that God will honor a sob story, nor a story, but He has promised to honor the Word of God. Listen: "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"—Rom. 10:17.

Beloved, you have to hear the Word of God in order to be saved. That is why it is that some folk don't like to come to this church — they don't like to hear the Word of God. Brother, it is the Book that you are going to be judged by. When you get up before God at the judgment, you are going to answer for this Bible. You are not going to answer for some preacher's yarns that he has told, but you are going to give an answer to God in the light of His Word.

In the darkest jungles of Africa, in South America where the missionaries have never gone, in the Orient where the Word of God has never yet been preached, and in Ashland where the Word of God flares and flashes at you every time you come into the house of God, regardless of where you are, if you die without hearing God's Word, you are eternally doomed and damned for Hell. God has said that men have to hear His Word to be saved.

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; THAT BY THESE ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lusts"—II Peter 1:4.

"Who shall tell thee WORDS, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved"—Acts. 11:14.

"And that from a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures, which are able to MAKE THEE WISE UNTO SALVATION through

faith which is in Christ Jesus"—II Tim. 3:15.

Some people like to go to a church where they call on women to testify and where they hear some old grandmothers who have walked with the Lord for years tell about what they have done. They say, "It just stirs something within me to hear these old saints testify." Beloved, do you know what it is that it stirs? It stirs your emotions; not your spirit but your emotions. You don't need to hear someone tell of his experience. What you need is to take God's Word and let the Word be implanted within your soul. That Word, beloved, will bring you face to face with Jesus Christ, and will show you the Son of God as your Saviour. You will never be saved apart from the hearing of the Word of God.

IV THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS TO QUICKEN YOU.

It is the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity, who takes the Word of God and applies it to your heart and quickens you and makes you alive in Christ Jesus.

"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"—John 6:44.

"IT IS THE SPIRIT THAT QUICKENETH; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life"—John 6:63.

We read the story of the lost coin how the woman who had ten pieces of silver, lost one. That coin which was lost didn't get up and find the woman. Rather, the Word of God says that the woman lighted a candle and swept the house and sought for the coin until she found it.

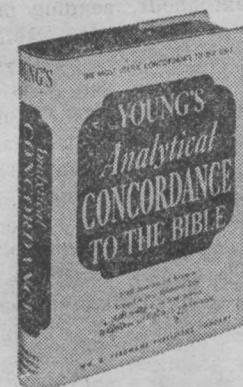
Beloved, that woman represents the Holy Spirit. The work of a woman is on the inside. This woman sought for the coin. The work of the Holy Spirit is inside. He seeks for the sinner and unless the Holy Spirit quickens an individual and brings that one to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ he will never be saved.

Listen again: "And when he is come, HE WILL REPROVE THE WORLD OF SIN, and of righteousness, and of judgment"—John 16:8.

Has the Holy Spirit reproved you? Did you join the church without being reproved by the Holy Spirit? Is sin just as lovely to you as it was before you made a profession of faith? I ask you, has the Holy Spirit of God reproved you of your sin?

In order for you to be saved God had to elect you, Jesus Christ had to die for you, the Word of God had to be preached to you, and the Holy Spirit has to quicken you. What is there left for you to do? Beloved, all you have to do is to furnish the sinner and (Continued on page 5, column 2)

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A Review Of Baptist Ecclesiology

(Continued From Page Three)

speed. However, Reformed Baptists claim these things are not so, but rather we are not to let them alone, but work with them, we are to note them, build them up and glorify them, and we are to have company with them and bid them Godspeed and receive them into our houses.

My brethren, this is the POLITY AND ORDER OF REFORMED BAPTISTS but it is not the order of Landmark Baptists nor of the Baptists of the N.T. period or of the periods before the 1800s back to Jesus Christ. To justify their practice of unbiblical and antichristian polity, they have invented a mystical, invisible, universal body which cuts across all denominational lines and will nullify the commandments and prohibitions of the N.T. We believe in the seven unities of the Spirit and try to keep them. Reformed Baptists do not. It is that simple.

20) If your position is correct Brother T. — it would be wrong to determine the standing of a person on the visible basis. Hence, we have no business in judging a tree by its fruits, or a wolf by its coat. True, we may be deceived in some cases, but the deception comes in spite of visible profession and not a lack of it. By visible profession and fellowship, a wolf in sheep's clothing is seen and we are not to worry about his BEING IN SOME MYSTICAL OR TRUE CHURCH but deal with him on the basis of VISIBLE ORDER AND HIS VISIBLE WALK!

21) We have clear cases of those who depart from the faith in the N.T. and those who would not conform to the entire N.T. standard. What about the Judizers who were rightly baptized, who were in the churches, and yet, their only error was trying to bring the Gentiles under the Law of Moses? What about this? What was the attitude of the churches toward the Jewish Baptists who wanted to make Gentile Baptists into Jewish Baptists? What about those early Gentile Baptists who embraced Gnosticism? What was the attitude of the N.T. churches and preachers toward them? And, remember, brethren these concepts were from within the circles of the early Baptist churches, and they would not fellowship those who had fallen away in some points and accepted these unscriptural concepts. One was a practice and a polity while one was a new theology. If N.T. churches were to note those and have no company with them, were not to receive them, to have no fellowship with them, then how can it be that Reformed Baptists will fellowship with those who have changed the order and commandments of Jesus Christ? Can you see Paul, James, Peter or John in a Bible Conference with those who destroy the FIRST CHRISTIAN ORDINANCE AND PERVERT ITS SUBJECTS AND PURPOSE AS WELL AS ITS MODE? And can't you see their big JERUSALEM BIBLE CONFERENCE WITH THOSE FROM ORGANIZATIONS WHICH NOT ONLY HAVE BROUGHT IN HUMAN TRADITIONS TO TAKE THE PLACE OF CHRIST'S COMMANDMENTS, BUT ALSO HAVE BEEN GUILTY OF MURDERING AND PERSECUTING THE FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST? Yes, brethren, I can see all that just like I can see Paul becoming a fornicator when he said — "I became ALL THINGS UNTO ALL MEN, IF BY SOME MEANS I MIGHT SAVE SOME . . ."

22) Reformed Baptist Ecclesiology is not only a belief but it is also a system of practice and polity which operates in direct opposition to the clearest statements of purpose and prohibitions in the New Testament. The folly which some will use to justify this practice is unbelievable. But it simply shows what happens when great men, otherwise, adopt unscriptural practices and polity and try to justify themselves. Now, if the polity and practice of Reformed Baptists is right then we must have this type of letter from one of the principle writers of the N.T. I would suggest that Reformed Baptists find us this kind of letter before we adopt their practices. Perhaps they can find it in some Pedobaptist Bible or university in Scotland or England.

THE REFORMED BAPTIST NONE-PREDICTED MODEL

Beloved Brethren — the time will come when there will be men whom God will raise up who will not walk according to our order and polity. These men will also change our traditions and ordinances. They are a part of the more important invisible, true, mystical body or church of Jesus Christ. So, when this time comes, you must not, you cannot determine a tree by its fruits but by the invisible, mystical spiritual part of the tree. So you must remember to fellowship and receive those who do not walk according to our patterns and examples. For you will know them by a special revelation from God, so have faith in that new revelation and the inward bond. When they come, do not shun, but rather have company with them on an equal basis so that you will show all you are one and the Lord's commandments can be changed and He will still love you and we are still His friends. Yes, fellowship them, work with them in all points like you do those of the N.T. order who walk as we have walked.

Brethren, remember that you are not to rebuke or shun those who come to you in the coming time with new church governments, new modes of baptisms and with new purposes and subjects of baptism, church membership, after all, you will live in an enlightened era and remember it is far more important

(Continued on Page Six)

ADAM'S RIB

WRITTEN BY A WOMAN
AND FOR WOMEN

"LETTERS OF CHRIST"

"Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle (letter) of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart" (II Cor. 3:3).

In the business world there is much importance placed on letters of recommendation. Respect and honor are attained with such letters. High positions are won. It might mean the difference between the "best" and "mediocre." How worthless this letter would be if it were illegible. Or the stationery were dirty and wrinkled and torn.

Ladies, you and I are letters of Christ. We have been stamped with the Holy Spirit. What should this mean to us? There are five parts to a friendly letter.

1. The Heading
2. The Salutation
3. The Body
4. The Closing
5. The Signature

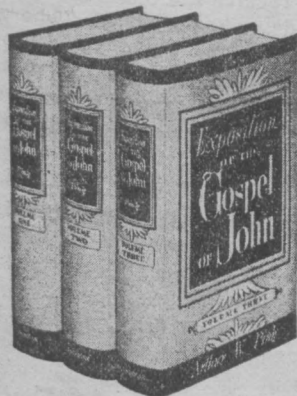
The Heading gives our address. You and I are citizens of Heaven. We have a mansion up there. We belong to the household of God. "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God" (Eph. 2:19). Let us not be overly concerned about our home down here. Let our lives show forth a better address.

The Salutation of a letter gives our opening greeting, "Dear Mary." We might liken this to the first words that come out of our mouth. First impressions are important. Oh, that our greeting to others might be sincere, loving, humble, and holy.

The Body of the letter sends our message. If we are with another Christian our message might be one of encouragement, friendliness, comfort, or love. If we are with an unsaved person our message might be one of the Gospel — how that Christ died and was buried and rose again. Mankind is dead in trespasses and sins. But the

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

body of our letter is one of hope and glory in Christ.

The Closing of a letter often shows our relationship to the one to whom we are writing. "Yours, in Christ." Or "Sincerely," or "Your Friend" or "Your Sister." Whatever our relationship, it most certainly should be sincere.

The Signature tells who the letter is from. Since we are letters of Christ His signature should be written all over us.

What kind of a letter are we? Is the writing so smeared with the world that it is hard to see the signature of Christ? Is the stationery stained with unconfessed sins? Is the message so filled with self that our Lord is left in the background?

May it please our Father to give us grace to be Holy Letters — that our homes would be Christ-centered, our lips speaking forth truth; our message would be of Christ, that our relationship to Christ would be manifest; and that people could see that we have been with Jesus.

"Necessary Things"

(Continued from page four)

God will do the saving.

I like to think of Jonah. God called Jonah to preach but Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh. He wanted to go someplace else. You remember how that he was swallowed by the fish and was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights. When that fish vomited him upon dry land he had been brought five hundred miles to Nineveh, instead of a thousand miles in the other direction which he wanted to go. When he stood up on the shores of Nineveh, he said:

"Salvation is of the Lord" — Jonah 2:9.

Beloved, when God wants you to do something, you might just as well do it, because you will have to do it in the end. God ordained that Jonah should preach in Nineveh. Though Jonah didn't want to preach there, God brought him to Nineveh by way of the fish's belly and when old Jonah stood on the shores of Nineveh, he was ready to preach, as God had ordained that he should.

Listen to me, sinner friend, salvation is of the Lord. May it please God to open your heart and reveal Jesus Christ to you as your Saviour. Oh, may you trust Him and be saved today.

May God bless you!

America 1975-76

(Continued from page one)

God's doing.

God, of course, is not the Author of confusion. But neither men nor nations can mock His Holy Name, disparage His Holy Word, or question His Holy purposes and live! Thus, today there is confusion in our government as we have never before experienced it.

What fools we have become!

We talk about spending billions in protecting ourselves from the nuclear missiles of Russia, yet we could not protect our lads from the shot and shell from a nation made up of less people than we have in the state of New York. We protect our astronauts in space and in their move to the moon, but we could not keep ragged, unschooled, tiny men with little reason to live from bringing down our most sophisticated aircraft and destroying the mightiest of our armaments. We are a nation with the name of being one of earth's greatest. Still, it is quite apparent that we are really one of the most helpless. Such paradoxes can only issue from the sin-sickness which afflicts our nation.

America's Future Folly

While we profess to be interested in raising a defense against Communism, we are becoming more and more like the Communists in the double standards we use and our self-interests. We apparently

suppose that a nation's leaders can know when it is best to lie, and expect God to bless us as we conform our activities to the thesis that "the end justifies the means."

There was actually a time when the news media took note of the fact that the Communists disparaged the name of God in their internal affairs and in connection with their external dealings. Today, one seldom hears anything regarding the Communists' unbelief. We have become so like the Communists that we have taken God out of our schools and we employ as little of His Word as possible in our government activities.

This, however, is just a slight "inkling" of what is coming in the day when God fulfills the prophesy of Jeremiah 6:18-26. In that day America will join Russia as she moves to conquer the land of Israel.

Some may wish to apply the reference, "the sides of the earth," to the East. We can quickly dispel any such notions with further Biblical references. In Revelation 9:13-16 and 16:12, we learn of the great army of 200,000,000 from the East, the Kings who will lead them, and the route of their travel across the Euphrates to the Battle of Armageddon in Israel.

As always, God in this instance is most specific. In Jeremiah 6:22, God speaks of the "Great Nation" that shall be raised from "the sides of the earth." In the passage, the Hebrew word for "sides" (actually it should be translated "side"), is YAREKAH. This means "thigh." It is very clear that God is not speaking of a nation on the "side of the earth" south of the equator. Neither is he speaking of an Arctic nation. Rather, in this passage which was written some 2000 years ago God has given us most specific information regarding America and her final attack upon Israel.

Through the voice of Jeremiah and the pen of his scribe more than 2500 years ago, God saw us as a people on "the side of the earth," and that we are "cruel" bearers of "spear and bow," as well as a noisy people upon the sea and on the earth (Jer. 6:23). Some may take offense at any reference to America as a "cruel" people. However, anyone who has ever been involved in any of the military training or exploits of Americans can know that we are "cruel." Any lad who makes it through his 12 weeks of Basic knows that he is expected to finish with a vicious "hate for the enemy" and a desire to "kill!" "kill!" "kill!" Too, our two A-bombs perhaps topped all previous noise made by man!

Even more, anyone who is capable of reading some recent history can come back to reality by remembering that we heartlessly slaughtered — without any real warning — more than 200,000 Japanese children, women, and men in the Nagasaki and Hiroshima holocausts. Regardless of how we justify our actions and despite any prior and subsequent good which we may have done, it is nevertheless true that no other nation in all of history ever used its power more devastatingly or more cruelly.

America's Fatal Move

We can know, of course, that a righteous God will judge Israel because of her spiritual harlotry, her rejection of the Son whom He sent, her wicked dealings in the councils of men. Their insatiable desire to progress at the expense of any Gentiles who happened to be in their way or without any real regard for the Gentiles who assisted them have inspired and encouraged hatreds among unbelievers. Thus, the sons of Jacob must periodically run for their lives.

However, the incalculable tragedy for those involved is that God will be able to use the mutual hatreds of America and Russia as He

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America 1975-76

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accomplishes His needed judgment upon Israel. At that moment in history, however, God will "use the wrath of men" to bring praise to His Holy Name, vindicate His Holy Word, and further glorify His precious Son.

In that hour, as the religious, provincial, and imperial powers unified to crucify the Son of God, so the nations of earth will join forces to destroy the people of God. Micah pictures the situation well: "Now also many nations are gathered against thee, that say, Let her be defiled, and let our eye look upon Zion" (Micah 4:11). God assures Israel, however, that even this will have its purpose. We read: "But they know not the thoughts of the Lord, neither understand they His counsel; for He shall gather them as the sheaves into the floor" (Mic. 4:12). Then in climax, God assures Israel of the ultimate victory with the words: "Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion; for I will make thine horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass; and thou shalt beat in pieces many people; and I will consecrate their gain unto the Lord, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth" (Micah 4:13).

This united attack against Israel by Russo-European, American and Eastern armies will be destructive beyond anything the world shall have experienced up to that moment. Two-thirds of the Jews then living will be killed (See Zech. 13:8-9). This slaughter of the Israelites will not, however, bring victory to the attackers. Instead, after impossible losses the nation of Israel will fall to her knees in sorrow, humility, and repentance. God will hear her cry! God makes this clear in:

"O daughter of my people, gird thyself with sackcloth, and wallow thyself in ashes; make thee mourning, as for an only Son, most bitter lamentation; for the spoiler shall suddenly come upon us" (Jer. 6:26).

Isaiah views this scene well:

"Who hath heard such a thing? Who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children" (Isa. 66:8). The Apostle Paul likewise sees the truth of this future happening very clearly:

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

A few years ago some 100,000,000 Arabs arrayed their wealth, might, and intelligence — to their loss — against a mere 2,500,000 Israelis. We saw one of the most lopsided battles in all of history. Yet, in less than a week, Israel was victorious! This shortlived battle in Israel was, in a limited sense, a picture of the last battle which will take place in that little land.

America's Hopeless Union

God tells us that He will send "The Deliverer" and the armies of the world will be destroyed (see Rev. 19:11-19). Israel, however, will be reborn in a day never to suffer or die again. Men, in their hatreds and in their rejections of the way of God have insisted on settling their differences with blood across the centuries. In that tragic and final moment in history, God will give men enough blood to drown the armies of earth.

Never again will mortal men call the God of the Bible a "dirty bully!"

Never again will mortal men suppose that a God of love cannot hate!

Never again will mortal men insist that the God who gives life cannot kill!

Never again will mortal men assume God to be an unconcerned Sovereign.

Never again will mortal men question God's right to send sinners to Hell.

Men will know that God is a God of love. However, at the same time those who despise His Cause, spurn His Leading, and defy His Power will learn of His wrath! Men will see that God is not a helpless, effeminate Ruler of men. Rather they will experience Him as the One who says: "Out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations." Men, in that day, will see God as the One who declared: "He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God." In that moment of time, both the living and the dead will know there is no quarter given by the God who can proclaim:

"I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God, that ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free (volunteers) and bond (drafted), both small and great" (Rev. 19:17-18).

This will be the end of history as men have known it!

Although some men will continue to live upon the earth in their natural bodies in the Millennium (see Zech. 14:16), at this concluding juncture of human history, there will be no shipping of the bodies of the "loved ones who fall in battle" back to their homelands. God tells us most clearly in Ezekiel 39:11 that those who fall in the last war which men will wage will have their "graves in Israel." The multitudes of the dead shall be so great and the stench of death will be so terrible that travelers will have to "stop their noses." God dramatizes the greatness and the terrible of the slaughter by giving us the truth that: "Seven months shall the house of Israel be burying them, that they may cleanse the land" (Ezek. 39:12).

America's Hopeful Realization

It is extremely important, however, that we never forget "the powers that be" for they "bear not the sword in vain; for they are ministers of God, revengers to execute wrath upon him that does evil" (Rom. 13:1,4). God, therefore, gives no license for the criminality, the riots, and the rebellion which we see on every side today. Neither does God give any warrant for the violent disparaging of the law by the lowly, the calloused violation of the legalities by which we all must live, or the discountenancing of Constitutional Law by the great.

The fact that God will one day totally annihilate the armies of earth does not alter the need and the place for those wars in the interest of right, peace, and freedom. However, it seems an almost incomprehensible tragedy that we should be suffering under some

(Continued on page 8, column 1)

The Spirit's Part

(Continued from page two)

"And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father." John well said: "Hereby know that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit" (I John 4:13).

There is the idea in the minds of some that only Baptist church members have the Spirit. This would in substance say the Covenant of Grace was made with only saved Baptists; all others would be cast down to Hell for the lack of baptism at the hands of a Baptist preacher.

I would be among the first to point out that the Spirit indwells the Lord's church during this age (I Cor. 3:16), but He also indwells all believers. Jesus Christ said in John 7:38-39: "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive)." Note the words carefully: "Which they that believe on him should receive."

Paul asked the Galatians: "Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?" (Gal. 3:2). Did Paul answer his question by saying that those who were baptized in water by a Baptist preacher received the Spirit? No! Paul by inspiration of God answers his own question by saying: "That we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

JUSTIFIES THE ELECT

The Father promised the Son that upon faithful fulfillment of His covenant engagements, He would justify all the elect (Rom. 8:33-34). Because of Christ's performance of His covenant settlements, "the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life" (Rom. 5:18). But the Holy Spirit makes this justification an actuality to us: "But

A Review of Baptist Ecclesiology

(Continued From Page Five)

to be united in appearance than in reality. So be one in a mystical way and let the visible order and traditions that existed in my own time fall away.

Also, understand that our warnings about heretics applied only to our time and then only to the Jews and heathen of our day. You have invisible and mystical fellowship which you can only know about by a study of God's Word. This means that we who wrote the N.T. still did not know about this and God had not yet raised up men like those coming such as Luther, Calvin, Knox and Zwingle to show us poor Baptists these deep things.

But have faith anyway and be nice and sweet because I am sure that Peter or Luke will develop this mystical and true relationship and give to you all that you need to know to function with those who walk not according to our age, order, polity and traditions. But, if they don't, then do remember to do this anyway so that there will be no trouble among those who differ. I do hope you will remember that you cannot judge the coming true and mystical church by its visible order, walk, fruits and polity. Remember, brethren, you cannot judge a tree by its fruits, but look deeper into its sap for the mystical, invisible, true method of fellowship and the invisible tree.

Oh, yes, I almost forgot, there is a group whom you are to shun and do your best to discredit. Publish books about them and misrepresent them all the time. They are not very well educated. They still walk according to my former concepts and commandments. They know nothing about the new enlightenment spirit or union and mystical bond that the NEW REVELATION is dealing with. They refuse to do what I, in my narrower days, would not do. Remember them, and do all you can to discredit them. Be sure and misrepresent the historic Baptists, and distort and lie about them for they surely do need it because they will not follow this new model I am talking about. They need shunning and lied about to prove your new point, polity and order. After all, aren't they too narrow and bigoted when they claim my fellowship and polity?

Your Brother in the New Order, and Mystical Church — PAUL THE PEDOBAPTIST!

Now, the sum and total of what I have said comes down to this — the proof is in the pudding! If the N.T. teaches what Reformed Baptists claim, then why didn't the N.T. Baptists believe it, practice it, and live like our modern Reformed Baptists? Your Reformed Baptist Ecclesiology has no relationship to the N.T. period and time. You cannot find it expressed nor working in the days of the apostles, but always, on the other hand, the N.T. teachings are just the opposite of what you imply. The N.T. teaches us to avoid them, note them, leave them alone, and do not receive them into our houses nor bid them God speed, however, you do the opposite. Will you tell us that one who has distorted the commandments of Christ should be held unto simply because he believes the five points of Calvinism? This is your position, but not that of the Bible.

"What thing soever I command you, observe to do it; thou shalt not add thereto, nor DIMINISH FROM IT"—Deuteronomy 12:32.

I remain, Yours in the Old Landmarks—R. E. Pound II.

(Continued Next Week)

ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (I Cor. 6:11).

TEACHES SPIRITUAL THINGS

In the Covenant of Grace the Spirit consented to be the teacher of the covenant people. He came into the world to be our teacher as really as did the Lord Jesus Christ to save us. Our Saviour said: "The Holy Ghost . . . He shall teach you all things" (John 14:26). The Apostle John wrote: "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him" (I John 2:27).

GIVES ACCESS TO FATHER

The covenant people can only approach the Father on the basis of "the blood of Jesus" (Heb. 10:19). "For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father" (Eph. 2:18). We receive the Spirit of adoption that we may cry: "Our Father which art in heaven" (Matt. 6:9). It is the duty of the covenant people to pray at all season "in the Spirit" (Eph. 6:18).

EMPOWERS BELIEVERS

In the fulfillment of His covenant engagements the Spirit empowers the heirs of the covenant to overcome the flesh. Galatians 5:16 reads: "This I say then, Walk

in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh." Those who receive the blessings of grace are described as those "who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Rom. 8:14). Again the Apostle Paul says: "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the spirit" (Gal. 5:25).

SANCTIFIES GOD'S PEOPLE

The sanctification of the heirs of the covenant is "the sanctification of the Spirit" (II Thess. 2:13). The Spirit begins, carries on, and perfects the work of grace and holiness upon the hearts of the elect without which no man shall see the Lord. He causes them to walk in the Lord's statutes and to do them (Ezek. 36:27). The Spirit writes the law of God into their minds (Heb. 8:10) and gives them a delight in it (Rom. 7:22).

This work of the Spirit in the believer causes him to persevere in holiness to the end of their earthly life. The Lord promised: "And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me" (Jer. 32:40). The elect serve the Lord "in holiness and righteousness . . . all the days of their life" (Luke 1:75). We love the Lord and keep His commandments, because "the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" (Rom. 5:5).

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

JANUARY 24, 1976

PAGE SIX

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

The Communists have decided that Christian girls, however young, must marry Red veterans of war and Viet Cong soldiers, whether they love them or not. Pastor Tranquocphu has put youngsters through a crash course in Christian basics. Other priests and Protestant pastors have urged girls of 15 and 16 to marry quickly a Christian teenager, to avoid forced marriage to Communists. Those pastors are now under heavy attack. (LUXEMBURGERWORT, of September 6). There is no doubt that by now Tranquocphu and others like him who fulfill their pastoral duty are jailed or perhaps killed. (A similar situation arose on the African island of Zanzibar under the revolutionist government. Arab girls, however young, were obliged to marry any Black who wished them even if he was four times as old. There have been heart-rendering tragedies. The girls who refused were publicly flogged and still forced to marry against their will).

All Christian schools in South Vietnam have been taken over by the Communists. Where children celebrated Christmas last year, blasphemies against God and Christ will poison their minds this year.—JESUS TO THE COMMUNIST WORLD.

Please pray for our imprisoned Vietnamese brethren and sisters. American prisoners of war in Vietnam have described the hunger reigning in their jails. The prisoners were incarcerated in cells filled with rats. If a rat grabbed a piece of bread from a bunk, a prisoner would grab it back. Since these rats had come right out of the sewer where the prisoners emptied their body waste, they were probably full of every germ imaginable.

Our brethren and sisters are now in cement boxes with filthy floors, infested with cockroaches and spiders. If a guard would eat a banana, the prisoners are happy to find a banana peel discarded by a guard, even if it has turned black and rats have rejected it. Who knows if our Cambodian and Laotian brethren are still alive? —JESUS TO THE COMMUNIST WORLD.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—U.S. Senator Mark O. Hatfield (R-Ore.) has introduced legislation seeking to stop the Central Intelligence Agency from using U.S. missionaries to gather information abroad.

"I seek the same prohibition on CIA-missionary contracts that now is in effect for U.S. Peace Corps."

volunteers and Fulbright scholars," Hatfield said.

Such involvements with the CIA in mission enterprise, Hatfield said, "have brought charges against innocent missionaries and have violated the separation of church and state."

He called the activity a "perversion of the church's mission" and an activity which brings discredit upon the foreign policies and credibility of the United States.

In letters to Hatfield, both CIA Director William Colby and White House Counsel Philip Buchen acknowledged using missionaries and both refused to stop it. The Senator had sought executive action to stop the practice, but when the top leadership refused to halt what they termed a valuable system of gathering intelligence abroad, Hatfield went ahead with his proposed legislation.

ROME (EP) — Italy's Roman Catholic bishops, in a renewed attack on the country's Communist Party, declared that "one cannot be a Christian and a Marxist at the same time."

A statement issued here by the permanent council of the Italian Episcopal Conference also reaffirmed the Church's condemnation of abortion.

The bishops, who said their declaration was made "in profound communion" with Pope Paul maintained that any support of movements based on Marxism was "incompatible with the profession of the Christian faith."

LONDON (EP) — At least 30,000 Jehovah's Witnesses are being held in detention camps in the eastern African republic of Malawi, according to a spokesman for the religious sect.

The spokesman, Wilfred Gooch, also charged that many other Malawian Jehovah's Witnesses had been murdered, tortured, and subjected to sexual abuses.

Malawi's High Commissioner in London, Robert Mbaya, denied the charges.

Jehovah's Witnesses, with a world membership of 2.5 million, has an active community in Africa. The members' refusal to engage in any "political" activity, or even to salute a national flag or sing a national anthem, has brought them into conflict with authorities in various nations.

VATICAN CITY (EP) — Pope Paul, in an address to the new Ambassador of Niger to the Holy See, called for greater and closer

cooperation between Muslims and Christians in promoting the common good and witnessing to "human solidarity and brotherhood." Bourrem Kosomi, the new representative at the Vatican of the predominantly Muslim nation in west central Africa, presented his credentials to the pontiff at a special audience here Dec. 11.

Mr. Kosomi, in his address to the Pope, said that in today's world, marked by selfishness and materialism, "the teaching of Christ is a great hope for peace—a goal towards which Your Holiness never ceases to work."

PLAINFIELD, N.J. (EP) — Only three Chinese people regularly attend the Sunday morning service of the only Protestant church among Peking's eight million people, according to Forrest Boyd who visited the church during his trip with President Ford to China.

Boyd, who wrote of his experiences exclusively for the Nation-

SHE KNEW, TOO!

On being asked by a priest to attend his religious instruction, a little girl refused, saying it was against her father's wishes. The priest said that she should obey him and not her father.

"Oh, sir, we are taught in the Bible, 'Honour thy father and thy mother.'"

"You have no business to read the Bible," said the priest.

"But, sir, our Saviour said, 'Search the scriptures!'" (John 5:39).

"That was only to the Jews, and not to children, and you don't understand it," said the priest in reply.

"But Paul said to Timothy, 'From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures'" (II Tim. 3:15).

"Oh," said the priest, "Timothy was being trained to be a bishop and was taught by the authority of the church."

"Oh, no, sir," said the child, "he was taught by his mother and his grandmother."

On this the priest turned away, saying she knew enough of the Bible to poison a parish.

al Courier, said three Chinese ministers rotate in taking charge of the service for the three Chinese believers. A handful of foreigners serving in embassies and liaison offices also attended, including Ambassador George Bush, head of the American office, and his family.

Chinese young people are not taught religion before age 18, Boyd wrote in the Dec. 26 issue of the newspaper which is published weekly by Logos International Fellowship, Inc. The reason is that Chinese leaders feel children are not old enough to decide for themselves whether to believe or not to believe.

The Sunday services in Peking do not include a sermon, just hymns, Boyd reported. The reason is that the pastors do not want to impose one person's will upon the mind of another.

"It's impossible for an outsider to gauge the size and vitality of the church in China in a short time," Boyd reported. "The odds against it are great."

WASHINGTON, D. C. (EP) — Judge John Paul Stevens, nominated by President Ford to be an associate justice of the Supreme Court, said here that he believed "women should have exactly the same rights under the law as men" but was undecided about the merits of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

"I think it (ERA) has symbolic importance," he said at his Senate confirmation hearings. "Other than the symbolic value of the amendment, I'm not sure how much it will accomplish beyond what can be accomplished under the 14th Amendment."

Judge Stevens, a 55-year-old

Chicago jurist nominated to succeed retired Justice William O. Douglas, also commented on the death penalty, saying he assumed that the certainty of execution would deter some crime.

COLUMBUS, Ohio (EP)—Ohio's governor told 8,000 cheering, praying fundamentalists that he supported their efforts to keep Bible-oriented schools operating in the state.

Some of those schools have been challenged in court because they do not meet state education standards.

Gov. James A. Rhodes, a Presbyterian, said he would support legislation to establish separate standards for private schools.

His remarks — often greeted by shouts of "Amen" — the governor addressed a rally on the lawn of the state capitol.

"A church school is the last bastion of discipline in our school system," he declared.

The crowd, ranging from infants to elderly people, came in a procession of some 150 buses from many Ohio areas. Before the rally began, they sang hymns and patriotic songs. Some waved flags and carried Bibles.

The governor appeared unexpectedly on the capitol's steps. "This is what we need more of in Ohio — people coming forth publicly and pledging their right to worship God," he said.

God And Mammon

(Continued from page one)
Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died and was buried; and in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame."

The "rich man" had the evil eye while those who lay up treasures in Heaven have the "single eye"; that is, their understanding has been enlightened so that they put God first in all of their thoughts and deeds. They, in fact, are even willing to lose their earthly possessions if such is a means toward honoring their God. "For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and enduring substance" (Heb. 10:34).

God, on the other hand, has made many of His children wealthy in the goods of this world. Job, Abraham, Solomon and others are excellent examples. These men, however, did not make their gold the apple of their eye. Job, in fact, said: "The Lord giveth and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

Entire church groups today have become so united with the god of mammon that it is impossible to determine where the world-ends and the church begins.

I have found as an archer that I can shoot only one arrow at a time. I have found that I can only aim at one target. May our arrows be aimed at glorifying God as the target of our life. May we, in other words, seek those things which are above. May we know that we cannot serve God and mammon any more than we could shoot at two targets at one and the same time. May we, therefore, love God with all our heart and not with only part of it.

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might" (Deut. 6:5).

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (I John 2:15,16).

God and worldliness are as far

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apart as black and white or heat and cold. We, therefore, cannot love both. It is as stated in James 4:4:

"Ye adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

May we, then, as was true of the Psalmist, have eyes only for God; keeping in mind that there are many things in this world to enjoy since they are of God. There, in fact, are a multitude of things God has placed upon this earth for our enjoyment. Let us therefore look up to Him and give thanks:

"Unto Thee lift I up mine eyes, O Thou that dwellest in the heavens. Behold, as the eyes of servants."

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ants look unto the hand of the masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God, until He have mercy upon us" (Psa. 123:2).

"No man can serve two masters."

The word "serve," as used here, does not mean to do an occasional act of obedience, but the reference is to that of a bond-servant, or slave. The reference, in fact, is to one who is the sole property of his or her master. It is to this degree that one cannot serve two masters, that is, be a slave to both. This fact is illustrated further by the word "other." The Greek has two different words for the word "other." One of the Greek words signifies another of the same kind or order, while the second denotes another of an entirely different sort. Our Lord used the latter meaning when He said:

"No man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other."

The word "other" meaning that which is completely contrary to the first or that which is of a different sort.

We conclude that one can serve (Continued on page 8, column 3)

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JANUARY 24, 1976

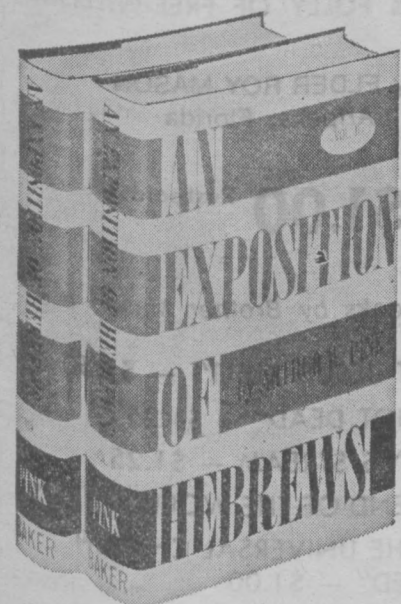
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America 1975-76

(Continued from page 6)

Satanic delusion which drives us on to "beat our chests" because of supposed military triumphs in our recent military fiasco.

No nation in history has ever been more fully blessed than ours. Yet, no nation in history ever returned less often to give thanks to God. Men, women, and young people fell to their knees during World War II, but when the war was won we arose and forgot God. We returned to our eating, drinking, and carousing.

In that moment of prophecy of which we read in Jeremiah 6:22, our nation shall have been overcome with impossible and inescapable darkness. When future Americans determine to join forces with the world against Israel, the die shall have been cast!

There will be no turning back.

There will be no chance for repentance.

There will be no joy in the hearts of those who profit from war.

In that eternally tragic hour, every man and lad "who takes the sword will die by the sword."

America's Hope for Today

The truth that America will one day join with Russia in a fatal attack upon the nation of Israel should shock us into making certain that our generation does not make the fatal mistake of unionizing with godless Communism in any form. If we are truly interested in America, we should make certain that we do not succumb to the plans of those who would have us live by atheistic precepts or principles.

In the consciousness that we are living today, all of us should fall to our knees and give thanks to Almighty God. We should endlessly praise the Name of God that the tomorrow of America's demise is not yet upon us. We should extol the praises of God that there is yet time. Rejoicing that there is life, we should abound in the wonder that there is yet hope.

Through faith in Christ, we can live life abundantly!

Through faith in Christ, we can live life fruitfully!

Through faith in Christ, we can live life effectively!

We Americans need to get right with God, NOW! God shows us

there is only one way to do this. He tells us that Jesus is the only Saviour with His Words:

"There is no other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we can be saved." He enables us to know that there is only one way of salvation with His Words: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh to the Father but by me." God declares before us the means of salvation innumerable times, as His prophets and Apostles with one voice proclaim: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

God And Mammon

(Continued from page seven)

two masters if they both are alike, that is, if they agree. A General and his Captain would be an example. One, however, cannot serve two masters at one and the same time if the one is contrary to the other.

"No man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other."

He will hate the one who is commanding him. This is because he objects to the fact that he is under his command. His preference being to be under the command of the one he loves—the one in whose law he delights. We see, then, that there is no way for one to truly serve two opposing masters, that is, be the bond-servant of both. Paul, in Romans 7:22 and 23, expressed how the two opposites cannot be served.

"For I delight in the law of God after the inward man; but I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me in captivity to the law of sin which is in my members."

"Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

"Mammon" is a Syriac word which denotes riches. The reference however is not to riches, but to Satan—the god of earthly riches. We draw this conclusion because the reference is to two masters and since the one is God then the other Satan—the prince of this world.

Let us now consider the orders which are given by the two masters. One asks us to walk by faith while the other asks us to walk by sight. One asks us to lay up treasures in Heaven while the other asks us to lay up treasures upon the earth. The one admonishes us to be proud while the other admonishes us to be humble. It is very obvious therefore that we cannot be the slaves of both.

It is very important that we point out that one must be a member of our Lord's church and faithful in that church before it can be said that he or she is in obedience to the Master's will. Those, in fact, who call Christ "Master" and yet are not members of His church are playing the part of the hypocrite. Let it be remembered that the Master's servants are always to be hearing and heeding the will of the Master.

"And why call ye Me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say" (Luke 6:46).

May our Lord bless you richly with the message He has set before us by His Spirit.

"Baptists"

(Continued from page one)

before coming to Ashland. I know from historical research that this church is at least over 150 years old. This church was equally strong in the old doctrines of the Baptist people.

When Grover Cleveland was president of the United States and 24 years after Lee surrendered, the church had this historic meeting. In February, 1889, the church charged Sister Minnie M. with

dancing, and a committee was appointed to see her and report back to the church at the next meeting.

"On Saturday before the fourth Lord's day in March, 1889, the Union Grove Church met in conference. After the usual services by moderator, he called church in conference. The committee that was appointed to see Sister Minnie M. made their report. They reported the charges were true. The church withdrew fellowship from Sister Minnie M. by her own request." J. F. Benson was the moderator, and J. L. Farrar the church clerk.

When William McKinley was the president of the United States and 33 years after Lee's surrender, the church practiced discipline again. On March, 1898, the Union Grove Baptist Church "withdrew fellowship from J. H. for the charge of unfaithfulness." They in the same meeting excluded E. L. M. and John H. for the charge of "aiding and making wildcat whisky."

"On Saturday before the fourth Lord's day in October, 1885, the Union Grove Church met according to adjournment. After the usual services by the pastor, the peace of the church was called for. A charge was brought against Sister B. L. P. for fornication. The church withdrew fellowship from her and was no longer responsible for her conduct."

In the October, 1886, meeting she withdrew from Brother L. J. M. and Sister M. E. W. for fornication. Such was not uncommon in those days of the early Baptists in Mississippi.

The minutes of this old church discloses that they stood uncompromisingly for Baptist churches being the only churches of Christ on earth. At the June, 1891, meeting the church withdrew from "Sister M. L. J. for joining the Campbellite church." In September, 1895, she "withdrew fellowship from Brother Tom D. for going to the Campbellite church." In 1896 the church withdrew its fellowship from "Brother John D. and daughter Elizabeth D. for joining the Freewill Baptists and Sister Vela M. for joining the Methodists."

OBSERVATIONS

The careful reader will note especially the area of concern of the churches in those days. They placed great stress upon church fellowship. At each conference "the fellowship of the church was inquired into" and the disorderly excluded. Then the church was "dismissed in order." They were not concerned with money, numbers, or modern church buildings. They were interested in the conduct of those who professed the religion of Christ. Immorality was simply not tolerated.

"I SNEAKED OUT"

I'm one of those who went home after Sunday School. Actually, as I sneaked away from the church, I did not say anything audibly.

I saw others coming to church, who perhaps were not able to get there for Sunday School.

I was aware of the older people who were here for the joy that was theirs.

I saw little ones preparing to get ready to go into the sanctuary for the climax of their worship hour.

Though I didn't speak out loud, I'm aware that I said many things to many people.

I told my family that it would be better for us to go home rather than remain for the morning service.

I told the unsaved passing by the church door that we did not like our church worship program nor our pastor.

I told God that I had enough of Him for the day.

I told Christ I had heard enough about Him for today.

I told my unsaved friend that I was not interested in his finding Christ. One who is too busy to stay for Church services misses God's blessing.

Friend, would you think about this the next time you sneak out after Sunday School?

—Copied

These churches drew a clear line between themselves and other denominations. There were no union meetings with false churches or granting letters to non-Baptist churches. There was speedy exclusion of any person who joined the Campbellites or the Freewillers.

Did such a firm stand prove to be God-honoring? Yes, for both of these churches stand today in the same rural area where they stood 150 years ago. Such a stand will make strong Baptists and cause a church to endure.

Before the departure of my grandfather, William R. Cockrell, he told me about attending services at Union Grove in 1887 when he was 15 years old. He said the old log church was filled with people and many were standing outside by the windows.

Who has heard of a Baptist church having a seating problem like this today? Who has heard of large numbers being truly converted and added to the church in a revival meeting? What has happened to American Baptist churches? We have lost our spiritual power because we long ago ceased to practice church discipline. We seem to stand for nothing and fall for every thing that comes along. God help us!

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