

# The Baptist Examiner

**Baptist Is Our Middle Name**

**Paid Circulation In All States And In Many Foreign Countries**

*"To the law and to the Testimony: if they speak not according to this word,  
it is because there is no light in them."—Isaiah 8:20*

Vol. 49, No. 11

ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, MARCH 24, 1979

WHOLE NUMBER 2215

## THE EARTH WITHOUT A CHRISTIAN

**J. R. GRAVES**  
(1820 - 1893)

The next subject in historical order to be examined is the short space of some seven years, less a shortening, between the coming of Christ for His saints and the coming of Christ with His saints, both of which events I have already treated. This period seems to be a "Dispensation" by itself, a dispensation of God's righteous indignation and judgment of the nations for their treatment of His people. This is the point we have reached in the World's Great Week. So striking and important a period is this, in the manifestation of God's righteous dealing with the wicked nations, that it was foretold by the prophets, by Christ and His apostles. It is called "The Time of Jacob's trouble," "the time of God's indignation," "the time of trouble," "the Great Tribulation," "the distress of nations," which is to overtake all those dwelling upon the earth during this fearful period. I shall denominate it.

### THE REIGN OF THE ANTI-CHRIST.

This is the time of distress and tribulation, from which "blessed are they who may be accounted worthy to escape and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36).

It is from this period of indignation and the outpouring of His fierce wrath upon the wicked nations that Christ has promised to deliver all His people living upon the earth at this time, for it is evident that were they left upon the



J. R. GRAVES

earth they would suffer equally with the wicked; but "the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment, to be punished." Think of it.

### THE WHOLE EARTH WITHOUT A CHRISTIAN.

But this will not be the first or the last instance. Twice before the First Advent was the world with-

out a friend of God upon it, when seemed that Satan, the adversary of God, had prevailed and driven Messiah from His own territory. And we shall see that twice, from his First Advent until the recreation and consummation of all things, will this world be without a friend of God upon it; and yet Satan will not, in the end, be the victor, but the vanquished.

The Monday of the world's great week closed with "the fall" and left the once fair earth smitten by the curse of its God, and peopled only by sinners. The earth was wrecked, and briars and thorns, sterility and unholiness supplanted scenes of heavenly beauty, and the reign of sin and woe, of death and ruin, commenced that has made this once glad earth an Aeldama.

When Noah and his family were taken away from the sight of men and shut up in the Ark, there was not a friend of God without, and (Continued on page 5, column 3)

### The Parable Of The Church That Died

There was a man who lived during the twentieth century. He had a new house, two cars and a bright, shiny boat filled his garage. A color television gleamed in his den. His family was healthy.

His custom—when he was in town, when the fish were not biting, when he was not on the beach or at the lake, when he had no guest, when he had nothing else to do—was to go to church. When he went, he spent his time deploring the decaying state of the church: Sunday School attendance was low, the choir scanty, the congregation small, the offering poor, and the preacher discouraged. "They ought to do better," he said. "What do they think religion is all about, anyway?"

Many vacations and days off came and went. According to the way of the world, this man's children grew up. They did not go to church. The reason, their father said, was that those people down at the church had not kindled his children's interest in religion. The man's health failed. One day he noticed something strange. Those people down at the church no longer came by. He was in the hospital and they did not visit him. And, lo, he was very angry.

"Where is the church?" he demanded.

"Oh," somebody said, "that church went out of business several years ago!"

"Oh," he cried, "they should never have let it die!"

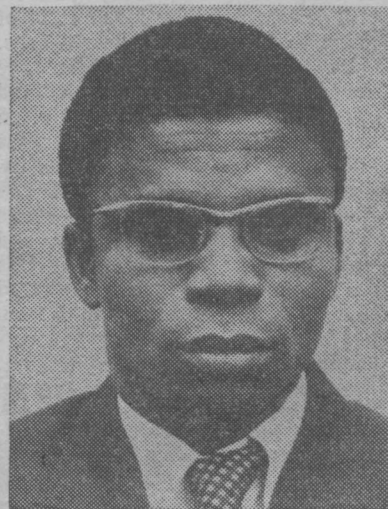
—borrowed

## John Imah Thanks Public & Praises The Lord For Vehicle

**By FRED T. HALLIMAN**  
**Missionary To New Guinea**

Dear friends,

As I write this, it is the very pinnacle of the Catholic heathen holidays, December 25. One thing that I hear of quite often is that Papua, New Guinea is a very primitive and backward country and, generally speaking, that is correct. However, there is one thing in which Papua, New Guinea does not trail very far behind the so-called civilized world (and those that are commonly known of today as the first World Countries, meaning



JOHN IMAH

America, England, etc.), and that is Christmas. The Government and the religious world may be slow in teaching a primitive heathen people many things but there is one thing I note that they are right at the top in, and that is teaching them about Christmas. Here now, as in all other countries, numerous deaths at this time of year are attributed directly to the drunken

brawls, parties and especially driving of vehicles while drunk or drinking, while they are supposed to be celebrating the birth of our blessed Lord here on earth. I know of no other farce that out strips this one.

In our last article we reported some of the work of Elder James Imah and the Philadelphia Baptist Church of Cross River State, Nigeria, as well as having some pictures of the work there. Beginning with this article we would like to share with you in this and perhaps some two or three articles to follow, some of the work, doctrinal beliefs, and pictures of the work of Elder John Imah, pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church, Calabar, Nigeria.

This article will have to do in the main with the vehicle that many of you there in America had a part in helping Brother Imah to obtain. I will have some comments later regarding this but first of all, I will let Brother Imah tell you how he feels about your helping him; I will quote direct from a recent letter that I have from him. For the most part, the quotation from his letter will be exactly as he has written it. In a place or two I will change the construction of a sentence, but not the meaning, so that it will be better understood by you. Any comments of mine will be in parentheses, should I have any, before quoting from his letter.

Before the salutation he says, **A "THANK YOU" to Brother Fred T. Halliman and to everyone that had a part in helping me to obtain my new car.** His salutation is as follows, My dear dad, Elder Halliman. (Brother Imah asked me before I left there in October of 1976 if I would mind if he addressed me as "dad" if he did.) (Continued on page 4, column 3)

## CHURCH INDEPENDENCE

**LUTHER S. HILTON**  
**Hobart, Indiana**

The purpose of this article is to set forth the Bible teaching on the subject of the independence of Missionary Baptist Churches. There is great need for the returning to what the Bible teaches on this matter rather than the unscriptural views which are being held by so many today.

### INDEPENDENCE DEFINED

Church independence means that a true church is completely independent of any other body outside herself and that there should be no interference by any outsider or sister church UNLESS A CHURCH USES HER INDEPENDENCE IN AN UNSCRIPTURAL WAY!

### CHURCH INDEPENDENCE DOES NOT GIVE THE RIGHT TO VIOLATE THE SCRIPTURES.

The epistles to the churches of the New Testament are given us as an example and pattern to be followed. The Church at Corinth is beseeched in I Cor. 1:10 "to speak the same thing, and that there be no division among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same

judgment."

The church at Philippi is exhorted in Philippians 2:2 to "be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."

Peter in the epistles that he penned, wrote in I Peter 4:1 for God's people to "arm yourselves likewise with the same mind."

Church independence does not allow any church to violate the Scriptures out of her so-called independence. Church independence does not give permission to any church to act contrary to the Scriptures.

### SOME EXAMPLES OF ABUSE OF CHURCH INDEPENDENCE.

Many churches are using their independence to neglect what the Bible teaches regarding how true churches are to treat false doctrine, heresy, heretics, or disorderly brethren. Church independence does not give any true church the right to go against or violate the clear teachings of the Scriptures. Titus 3:10 teaches that "a man that is a heretic after the first and second admonition is to be rejected" and not used by the churches. Paul wrote to the church at Rome in Romans 16:17 saying, "Now I beseech you, brethren, MARK THEM, which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and AVOID THEM." The church at Rome was told to avoid those who caused divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which they had learned. Are churches acting in like manner today? Not too many I am afraid to say.

Now, let's take a look at one of the Pastoral Epistles. I Timothy 6:3 says: "If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness," (for the sake of space, I'll go to verse 5, and set forth what the minister was told to do) "From such WITHDRAW THYSELF."

Church independence does not give any church or pastor or any one else for that matter THE (Continued on page 7, column 4)

## BIBLE BAPTISM

**JOHN NORCOTT**

Scripture furnishes us with examples of many thousands who were baptized in rivers, all of them persons who professed faith and repentance, and were for years able to answer for themselves.

First example. When we read of those that Christ is said to have baptized, John 4:1, it is said, "He made them disciples, and baptized them." First, they were disciples, then they were baptized; they were made disciples, not born disciples, that is to say, they were made disciples by the preaching of God's Word, and then they were baptized.

Second example. You have an example in Acts 2:41: "Then they that gladly received his Word were baptized." The occasion of this you have in verse 37: They were pricked in their heart: they knew not what to do, the sense of sin lay heavy upon them, and they cried out, "Men and brethren, what shall we do." The Apostle answered them, verse 38: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." "Then they that gladly received his Word were baptized," verse 41. Mercy is sweet to a wounded soul. Such a soul sticks at no duty: now he hesitates no more, but with all joy he is plunged in water at Christ's command. The glad believers were willing to obey their Lord at once. "And the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls," verse 41.

Third example. Another example you have in Acts 8:12: "But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." Note, When they believed,— "They of Samaria," verse 5; and, for ought we know, some of those whom the disciples would a little while ago have called for fire from Heaven upon, Luke 9:52-54. Yet when these believed, "they were baptized, both men and women." Oh, if you be never so near Hell, yet believe and be baptized, there's mercy for you. But note well that those who were baptized professed to be believers, and were men and women.

Fourth example. You have another example of the baptizing of believers in Acts 8:35. We read of the Eunuch that Philip preached unto him Jesus. In verse 36 we read: "They came unto a certain water: and the Eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?" Then in verse 37, Philip said, "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest." This "if," is the "if" we stand upon: if thou be never so poor, or so (Continued on page 7, column 4)

## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon By Milburn Cockrell

## THE WHOLE TRUTH

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:11-13).

Many churchgoers live in open rebellion to the moral teachings of the Bible, yet they expect to be saved when the roll is called up yonder. Most of these people joined the church in what is called

an old-time revival meeting. They experienced some emotional excitement as they prayed through on the mourner's bench because of a graveyard tale told by a famous evangelist. Many of these people have not been to church since they were baptized. They live as they did before uniting with the church. They drink, smoke, curse, lie, cheat, and steal like those who make no profession of faith. They seem to be religious, but they are really not saved. They do not attend church unless someone dies or gets

married. They never pray or read the Bible. Such persons have never been born again!

Some Baptists tell sinners to just believe and everything is alright. They say, "Just let Jesus come into your heart and be saved forever. It doesn't matter how you live or what church you belong to." To tell the lost sinner such without additional instructions is to preach a lie. It is dangerous to preach a lie. Such unscriptural practices have given critics a perfect right to accuse Baptists of (Continued on page 2, column 1)

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## The Baptist Examiner

THE BAPTIST PAPER FOR THE  
BAPTIST PEOPLE

MILBURN COCKRELL --- Editor  
Editorial Department, located in  
ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, where  
all subscriptions and communica-  
tions should be sent. Address:  
P. O. Box 71, Zip Code 41101.

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**PUBLISHED WEEKLY,** except last week  
of December, with paid circulation in every  
state and many foreign countries.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**  
One year \$4.00; Two years \$7.00  
Five years \$14.00  
CLUB RATE: 15 or more each \$3.00  
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Entered at second class matter March  
4, 1978, in the post office at Ashland,  
Kentucky, under the Act of March 3,  
1879.

## The Whole Truth

(Continued from page one)

preaching a dangerous gospel. Sad  
to say, this accusation is not with-  
out some foundation, for the Ar-  
minian evangelism of our day  
practiced by some Baptists has  
produced a great religious body  
which has a name to live but is  
dead.

So many ministers seem so in-  
tensely anxious to make every-  
thing so easy and simple for the  
sinner that their preaching be-  
comes extremely one-sided. The  
gospel the average person hears  
nowadays is nothing more than a  
carnal, earthly, worldly gospel  
which offers false peace. The gos-  
pel preached in the average pul-  
pit is not a delivering gospel. It  
leaves people in the world to live  
instead of changing them into new  
creatures. It hurls the conscience  
and leaves the soul in its old  
habits and old ways of living. It  
fixes it so there is no difference  
between the church and the world.  
Everywhere you can see the great  
number who make professions un-  
der such preaching and who live  
low as a consequence.

In this message I want to pre-  
sent the whole counsel of God. I  
desire to set forth salvation by  
the free and sovereign grace of  
God. Then I further seek to present  
the kind of life a child of grace  
lives.

### SALVATION BY GRACE

Titus 2:11 declares: "For the  
grace of God that bringeth sal-  
vation hath appeared to all men." How  
wonderful is the word sal-  
vation in the ears of a condemned  
sinner! Salvation is a miraculous  
work performed by the Holy Spirit.  
It is an inward work. It is God  
speaking into existence a new cre-  
ation. It is passing from spiritual  
death to spiritual life, from dark-  
ness to light. It is being born  
again.

When we are saved Christ res-  
cues our soul from Hell. He  
plucks us as a brand out of the  
burning. He takes us out of the  
miry clay of condemnation and out  
of the pit of our sins. He sets our  
feet upon the Rock of Ages and es-  
tablishes our going. He puts a new  
song of prayer and praise in our  
mouths (Ps. 40). He sends forth  
His Holy Spirit to dwell in our

hearts and to teach us all things.  
He raises us up and causes us to  
sit in heavenly places.

The man who has not come to  
see salvation to be wholly by the  
free grace of God is a stranger to  
the Holy Writ. Our text says the  
grace of God brings salvation. It  
does not offer it to men upon cer-  
tain conditions, as Arminians  
teach. The sovereign grace of  
God brings salvation from sin  
and wrath. The free favor and  
the good will of God, not any  
merit or desert in the creature,  
gives deliverance from death and  
Hell. The gospel of grace is  
preached unto all nations for the  
obedience of the faith (Rom. 16:  
25-26).

Ephesians 2:4 says: "... by  
grace ye are saved." Peter said in  
Acts 15:11: "But we believe that  
through the grace of the Lord  
Jesus we shall be saved, even  
as they." Salvation is by grace  
that it might be by faith. It is of  
grace that it might not be of works.

The Bible is plain. Men are  
saved by grace separate and  
apart from human merit. We often  
hear the expression "grace plus  
nothing." This is true if you un-  
derstand it is only to apply to the  
matter of salvation. But the whole  
sphere of the Christian life and  
walk are not included under this  
description. The grace of God  
that brings salvation hath ap-  
peared indeed, but that grace cer-  
tainly is not grace plus nothing.  
Instead, it is grace teaching us,  
that denying ungodliness and world-  
ly lusts, we should live soberly,  
righteously, and godly in this  
present world.

Some say that every child of  
God is under the most sacred  
obligation to live a righteous life.  
It is said that he ought to exert  
himself to live the best life pos-  
sible in the flesh, but it is added  
that if he does not live a righteous  
life he will be saved by grace any-  
way. It is this misinterpretation of  
salvation by grace which consti-  
tutes the dangerous gospel.

### THE GREAT CHANGE WHICH SALVATION MAKES

The Bible expressly teaches that  
a child of grace will live a right-  
eous life. II Corinthians 5:14-17  
says: "For the love of Christ con-  
straineth us; because we thus  
judge that if one died for all, then  
were all dead: And that he died for  
all, that they which live should not  
henceforth live unto themselves,  
but unto him which died for them,  
and rose again. Therefore if any  
man be in Christ, he is a new  
creature: old things are passed  
away; behold, all things are be-  
come new."

Those who partake of the life of  
Christ do not live unto themselves.  
Those saved by grace "live . . .  
unto him which died for them, and  
rose again." Christ died that they  
who share with Him the new life  
may cease living to themselves.  
Their love for their Redeemer con-  
strains them to live a Christian  
life.

The child of grace is not a vic-  
tim of self-love, for the old life of  
sin passes away. Grace makes a  
great change in the soul, so great  
a change that the believer is "a  
new creation." Regenerating grace  
makes a new world in the soul.  
The recipient of saving grace can  
say with Paul: "For me to live is  
Christ" (Phil. 1:21). He can true-  
ly say: "I am crucified with  
Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not  
I, but Christ liveth in me: and the  
life which I now live in the flesh  
I live by the faith of the Son of  
God, who loved me, and gave  
himself for me" (Gal. 2:20). The  
child of grace is "always bearing  
about in the body the dying of the  
Lord Jesus, that the life also of  
Jesus might be made manifest in"  
his body (II Cor. 4:10).

To the Corinthians Paul wrote:  
"Know ye not that the unright-  
eous shall not inherit the king-  
dom of God? Be not deceived:  
neither fornicators, nor idolaters,  
nor adulterers, nor effeminate,  
nor abusers of themselves with  
mankind, nor thieves, nor covet-  
ous, nor drunkards, nor revilers,  
nor extortioners, shall inherit the  
kingdom of God." Then after  
speaking these plain words, he  
went on to say about the Corinthi-  
ans: "And such were some of  
you: but ye are washed, but ye  
are sanctified, but ye are justified  
in the name of the Lord Jesus, and

"Who is so great a God as our  
God?" Psalms 77:13.

I am sure that everyone of you  
recognize that God is a great God.  
So far as I am personally con-  
cerned, there is no truth in all the  
Bible that stands out more clearly  
than the greatness of Almighty  
God. As I say, I am sure we real-  
ize that God is great, yet I am  
afraid the majority of us fail to  
recognize how great God really  
is. The prophet Isaiah, I think,  
comes as close to magnifying the  
greatness of God as any of the  
writers of the Bible, for we read:

"Behold, the Lord God will  
come with strong hand, and his  
arm shall rule for him. Who hath  
measured the waters in the hollow  
of his hand, and meted out heaven  
with the span, and comprehended  
the dust of the earth in a measure,  
and weighed the mountains in  
scales, and the hills in a balance?  
Who hath directed the Spirit of the  
Lord, or being his counsellor hath  
taught him? Behold, the nations

by the Spirit of our God" (I Cor. 6:  
9-11). Some of the Corinthians be-  
fore their conversion were adul-  
terers, thieves, drunkards, and  
revilers. Paul said: "And such  
were some of you . . ." But this  
was not true of the Corinthians  
when Paul spoke, for they had been  
saved by God's grace and washed  
in the blood of Christ. These were  
no longer adulterers, thieves,  
drunkards and revilers!

But someone will say I know a  
man saved by grace who is a  
drunkard and adulterer! You may  
know of such a church member in  
this permissive age, but you do not  
know of a man saved by grace who  
habitually drinks and commits  
adultery! Paul said such people  
had never been washed in the blood  
of Christ. They are, according to  
Paul's own testimony, deceived  
persons who will miss Heaven as  
far as Hell is from Heaven!

### KEEPS THE COMMANDMENTS

I read in I John 2:3-4: "And  
hereby we do know that we know  
him, if we keep his command-  
ments. He that saith, I know him,  
and keepeth not his command-  
ments, is a liar, and the truth is  
not in him." Those who know the  
God of all grace do not live a life  
of disgrace. There is within them  
a desire to keep the Lord's com-  
mandments and there is some de-  
gree of action accordingly. The  
child of grace does not disregard  
the spiritual duties which Christ  
imposes upon His disciples. The  
professed disciple who lives in  
open rebellion to Christ's com-  
mands is living a lie. In chapter  
3, verse 22, John in positive  
language says: "We keep his com-  
mandments, and do those things  
that are pleasing in his sight."

### DOES RIGHTEOUS DEEDS

I John 3:6 tells us that those  
saved by grace do not make a  
practice of sinning: "Whosoever  
abideth in him sinneth not: who-  
soever sinneth hath not seen him,  
neither known him." A man saved  
by grace does not belong to the  
sin sphere. Sin is not the law of  
his life: "Whosoever is born of  
God doth not commit sin; for his  
seed remaineth in him: and he  
cannot sin, because he is born of  
God. In this the children of God  
are manifest, and the children of  
the devil . . ." (I John 3:9-10).  
This is not the language of sinless  
perfection, but it is language which  
indicates a man saved by grace  
does not live a wicked, sinful life.  
The general course and tenor of a  
redeemed man's life is toward  
righteousness.

### WHAT THE GRACE OF GOD TEACHES US

Jude warned centuries ago of un-  
godly men who "turn the grace of

are as a drop of a bucket, and are  
counted as the small dust of the  
balance: behold, he taketh up the  
isles as a very little thing. All na-  
tions before him are as nothing.  
It is he that sitteth upon the circle  
of the earth, and the inhabitants  
thereof are as grasshoppers. To  
whom then will ye liken me, or  
shall I be equal? saith the Holy  
One." (Isa. 40:10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 22,  
25).

You can't read verses like these  
without realizing the greatness of  
Almighty God. He is so great that  
He can take the waters of the  
earth and hold them in the hollow  
of His hand. Imagine a hand into  
which you can pour the Ohio  
River, or the Mississippi River,  
or the Atlantic Ocean, or the  
Pacific Ocean, or all the waters of  
the world!

Then notice how God is strong  
enough that He can weigh the  
mountains in scales and the hills  
in a balance. The scales that are  
spoken of, and the balances that

God into lasciviousness." They  
taught that as men were saved  
by grace, and not by works, they  
could continue to gratify their evil  
desires and yet be saved by grace.

The Apostle Paul is the great  
expounder of the doctrine of grace.  
All other Bible writers put togeth-  
er did not use the word grace half  
as many times as he did. But Paul  
never did teach that a man could  
believe in Christ for salvation,  
then go on living an unrighteous  
life, and finally be saved by grace.  
He ably refutes this idea in Rom-  
ans 6:1-2: "What shall we say  
then? Shall we continue in sin, that  
grace may abound? God forbid.  
How shall we that are dead to sin,  
live any longer therein?" The  
grace of God does not relieve any  
man of the necessity of living right.  
The truth is that it is the grace of  
God which saves a man which  
causes him to live right. If one who  
professes to know Christ does not  
live right, he is a stranger to the  
grace of God.

According to my text, the grace  
of God teaches us three things.  
First, it teaches us to abandon  
sin. It causes us to deny ungodli-  
ness and worldly lusts. The saving  
grace of God teaches us to "put  
off the old man with his deeds"  
(Col. 3:9), to "crucify the flesh  
with the affections and lusts"  
(Gal. 5:24), to reckon "yourselves  
to be dead indeed unto sin" (Rom.  
6:11), to not let sin "have domin-  
ion over you" (Rom. 6:14), to  
mortify the members of our body  
(Col. 3:5), to "make no provision  
for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts  
thereof" (Rom. 13:14), and to turn  
away our eyes from beholding  
vanity (Ps. 119:37). God's grace  
teaches us to put off anger, wrath,  
malice, blasphemy, filthy com-  
munications and to keep our body  
in subjection.

The grace of God which brings  
salvation teaches us to make a  
conscience of that which is good.  
Verse 12 of Titus 2 says: "To live  
soberly, righteously, and godly."

are mentioned, are the old fash-  
ioned steelyards whereby you hold  
them up in your hand with the ar-  
ticles to be weighed in one bal-  
ance and the measuring weight on  
the other; it says that God can  
take the hills and the mountains  
and weigh them in a balance.

Then it tells us that the nations  
are but a drop in a bucket. When  
you have poured all the water out  
of a bucket, then take that buck-  
et and shake it backwards and for-  
wards so that every particle of  
water in that bucket is gone. Then  
look down in the bottom of the  
bucket and you probably will see a  
drop of water that may have  
formed. God says that the na-  
tions in His sight are but a drop in  
the bucket. The United States with  
all of its pride, and the nations of  
the world with all their grandeur,  
stand in the sight of God just like  
the drop in the bottom of the  
bucket.

It goes on to say that all nations  
(Continued on page 3, column 1)

## BRIEF NOTES

The Central Avenue Baptist  
Church, Tampa, Fla., and Pastor  
Wayne Crow will sponsor a Mis-  
sion Conference March 18-25.  
Speakers on the program are  
Wayne Crow, James Gassett, Sen-  
toma Jaggernauth, Willard Pyle,  
Elton Wilson, George Starling,  
Emmanuel Jaggernauth and Herb  
Hatfield. For more information  
you may call Bro. Crow at 813-  
231-5171. The pastor and church  
invite all within driving distance  
to attend these special services.

Elder Cecil L. Lawrence, 411  
Presley St., Oakdale, La. 71463,  
underwent surgery on March 6  
for a tumor on his right kid-  
ney. He desires the prayers of  
the readers of TBE in his behalf.  
Bro. Lawrence hopes to recover  
soon and still will conduct his con-  
ference April 20-22.

The child of grace refrains from  
evil that he might perform good  
works. We are commanded in  
Romans 12:9: "Abhor that which  
is evil; cleave to that which is  
good."

Nearly all the great texts of  
salvation by grace through faith  
are accompanied by a definite in-  
sistence upon good works which  
only a new creature in Christ can  
produce. Ephesians 2:8-9 is fol-  
lowed by these words in verse 10:  
"For we are his workmanship,  
created in Christ Jesus unto good  
works, which God hath before or-  
dained that we should walk in  
them." Titus 3:5-7 is followed by  
verse 8 which reads: "This is a  
faithful saying, and these things  
I will that thou affirm constantly,  
that they which have believed in  
God might be careful to main-  
tain good works." I would sooner  
expect to see the Devil in Heaven  
than a man who is saved by grace  
and has no good works! A man is  
(Continued on page 8, column 1)

## Memorial Pulpit

By JOHN R. GILPIN

Our Beloved Pastor and Editor Now in Glory



## "HOW GREAT THOU ART"

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## How Great Thou Art

(Continued from Page Two)

before Him are as nothing, and they are counted to Him as less than nothing. How much of a mathematician are you? Are you able to delve into mathematics far enough that you can add up the nations of the world to find that the answer is less than nothing? In Algebra we used to talk about negative numbers. I don't know whether negative numbers would even in any wise at all encompass this Scripture, for God says the nations of the world are less than nothing.

Then it tells us that He sits upon the circle of the earth. "Great God thou art"—so great the prophet says that God sits upon the earth as a circle.

Then we read: "To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One." I say you can't read a verse like this without realizing "how great thou art."

If you will read a little further in the Old Testament prophecies you will find that Nahum likewise magnifies God, for he says:

"The Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet. He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers. The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein. Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? His fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him. The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him" (Nahum 1:3-7).

As I have read this again and again to meditate upon it, I have never come to the place yet that I felt I could truly contemplate God in all of His greatness. Every time that I read it, I come back to the words of the song, "How Great Thou Art." I say, whenever you read this fortieth chapter of Isaiah and the first chapter of Nahum you realize the greatness of God. However, I am afraid that most of us don't think of God as being very great. The majority of people think of God as being just a little bit more than man—just a big man. God Himself tells us that is the way the world thinks of Him, for we read: "Thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself" (Psa. 50:21).

Beloved, the majority of people think of God as just a little bit more than man. I come back to my text which says, "Who is so great a God as our God?" Well, I'd like to show you a few things wherein God excels. I'd like to show you a few things wherein God manifests His greatness.

### GOD IS GREAT IN HIS SOVEREIGNTY.

When I say sovereignty, I mean that God rules. God reigns and controls the world. We read:

"But our God is in the heavens: HE HATH DONE WHATSOEVER HE HATH PLEASD" (Psa. 115:3).

Now that is sovereignty, be-

loved. God does what He pleases. You and I do as God enables us to do. Not one of us could ever say that he has done all the way through his life what he pleased, but God does as He pleases.

Notice again:

"For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: HE PUTTETH DOWN ONE, and SETTETH UP ANOTHER" (Psa. 75:6, 7).

The position you hold, you don't hold it because you are a little smarter than someone else. You don't have it because you have more strength in your arm than the man who perhaps lives near you. You don't have the position you have because of any material or educational advantage you have had in life. Instead, this text tells us that God putteth down one, and He exalteth, or setteth up another.

There used to be a woman here in town who had a common expression I thought was very good. She used to say, "You ought to be mighty kind to the people as you meet them from day to day, because the very people you pass on the way up the ladder, you are going to have to meet when you start back down the ladder." I have thought often of that expression. Whether you are going up the ladder, or whether you are coming down the ladder, it is of God. What your position in life is, is because God has given you that position. Promotion does not come from the east, or the west, or the north or the south. In other words, it doesn't come from man, for God putteth one down and setteth up another.

We read again:

"Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain" (Psa. 76:10).

Talk about sovereignty. God even takes the wrath of man and uses it for His praises. Sometimes individuals though will go so far in their wrath, that it is beyond what God can use to His praise, and what does God do then? He restrains the balance of wrath.

I think I know the meaning of this from first hand experience. I think I have seen in life many, many times individuals who have wreaked their wrath upon me. Sometimes, beloved, it was just more than I could stand. I can remember one experience in particular that I went to God and said, "Oh, God, I can't stand it another day." Do you know, beloved, it wasn't twenty-four hours before God restrained the wrath of this individual. I tell you, He is a sovereign God.

Listen again:

"For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof" (Psa. 50:10-12).

Beloved, God owns the cattle upon a thousand hills. God controls the birds that fly in the air. God owns the beasts that roam the forests. I tell you, He is a sovereign God.

If you would see His sovereign-



## The Baptist Examiner

### BIBLE STUDY LESSON

By WILLARD PYLE

Pastor — First Baptist Church of Naples Park, Florida

For April 1, 1979

I Peter 2:17-25

Even though the saints have their citizenship in Heaven (Phil. 3:20) and belong to the family of God (Phil. 2:19; 3:15), they have responsibilities as citizens and in the domestic realm.

#### VERSE 17

"Honor all men." The child of God is to show due respect in his compassion and concern for all men. He is to show appreciation and thankfulness for all the benefits he receives. To honor an unsaved person is not to commend their wickedness, but to recognize their position, or a particular capacity which they have.

"Love the brotherhood." "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples" (John 13:35). The mutual relationship between the saved is based on being one in Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:28). Jesus reminded His disciples, "Ye are all brethren." How our hearts should be knit together in love. This would eliminate jealousy, pride, and envy, and would promote sacrifice and service as we "have the same care one for another." Keep in mind this is the basis for fellow-

ty, then hear Solomon as he says: "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water he turneth it whithersoever he will" (Prov. 21:1).

Beloved, the hearts of men are in God's hand. God can turn the hearts of men whithersoever He will. Does somebody hate you? God can change that individual. God can change, and God does turn the hearts of men just the same as we might change the course of a stream of water.

I remember when they changed the course of the Scioto River at Portsmouth. For several weeks they worked with a clam shell, moving earth, and changing the course of the stream of water. I remember as I went along one day that I looked over where the Scioto used to flow and it was practically dried up. Then I looked over to the right and saw the new channel for the Scioto to flow in and I thought of this text: "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water he turneth it whithersoever he will."

If you want to see how great God is, then read with me from the book of Job. Listen:

"With clouds he covereth the light; and commandeth it not to shine by the cloud that cometh between" (Job 36:32).

If you will notice in the King James Version, the most of this verse is in italics, which means that it has been supplied by the translators. In this instance, they did a very poor job. In the Revised Version this Scripture says: "He covereth his hands with the lightning, and giveth it a charge that it strike the mark."

Do you believe that God is behind every bolt of lightning that goes through the atmosphere? Do you believe if lightning strikes your house that God gave it a charge to do so? Do you believe if lightning strikes a prize cow out in the pasture, that it "just happened," or it was by chance? No, no, beloved, this Scripture in Job indicates that God giveth the lightning direction and a charge that it strike the mark. I tell you, beloved, God is great in His sovereignty.

If you will read the story of those plagues in the book of Exodus, how that God sent frogs and flies and lice—one plague after another, you will be impressed by the sovereignty of God.

Or look, if you will, at that Red Sea when it stood still. The waters stood up on each side in a solid wall. God made the ground as concrete beneath those Jews as they crossed the Red Sea, and went over dry shod to the other side. I tell you, beloved, that was the (Continued on Page 6, Column 1)

ship and unity; not the total picture, for the brotherhood is to function properly in their relationship to God by obeying His precepts before total unity is achieved. Therefore a brother who walks disorderly is not to be approved (II Thess. 3:6). So loving the brotherhood doesn't mean compromise either in doctrine or practice.

"Fear God." This will temper our actions and activities in every realm of Christian life. "The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom." To fear doesn't mean to look on God as a hard taskmaster or a cruel tyrant, but to bow in Godly reverence and adoration. We are to "stand in awe" in His holy presence and to recognize that He is high and lifted up. "O come let us worship and bow down." We are to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Nothing or no one is to come ahead of God.

"Honor the king." Because of our fear of God we are to show due respect to the earthly ruler He raises up, for there is a divine purpose back of it.

#### VERSE 18

"Servants." A household servant (Acts 10:7). This is not to be looked on as a degrading occupation either by the servant or those being served.

"Be subject to your masters with all fear." If, in God's providence we are servants, we should be the best servant possible and seek to obey and to please those over us (I Tim. 6:1; Titus 2:9; Eph. 6:8-9). Of course the duties of the masters is also emphasized (Eph. 6:9). Especially this should be true among Christian servants and masters. This was a greatly misunderstood subject then and also in the day we live.

"Not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward." Many times the masters gloried in their position and wanted to make sure the servants knew who was boss. They also were crooked, (the meaning of the word froward) many times in their dealings with the servants and exploited them. Naturally, the tendency on the part of the servant was to strike back or to get even.

"For this is thankworthy." Not in the eyes of the world, who would exhort to violence or overthrow, but in the eyes of God.

"If a man for conscience toward God." That is, because of a desire to promote the glory of God, a Christian servant kept in mind his relationship to God and his responsibilities because of this relationship.

"Endure grief, suffering wrongfully." "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake" (Matt. 5:10). A Christian will never lose by reacting rightly in spite of being treated wrongfully.

#### VERSE 20

"For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently." It is to be expected under these conditions and not extraordinary. Therefore it is deserved.

"But if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently." How amazing the grace of God which can give the child of God the ability to sustain the greatest afflictions possible and do it patiently! This is something the world doesn't understand. Consider Joseph in prison and also Paul and Silas.

"This is acceptable with God." With such sacrifice God is well pleased and God will not forget your labor of love.

#### VERSE 21

"For even hereunto were ye called." To be called unto salvation and glory is readily acceptable, but to be called unto suffer-

ing is a little realized fact among many, if not most, Christians. It is something we withdraw from. To "glory in tribulation" makes a very peculiar people indeed. Jesus warned His disciples, "In the world ye shall have tribulation." We also read, "Yea, and all that live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (II Tim. 3:12). This is the common lot of faithful Christians. We see this both in the Old and New Testaments and also in historical facts down through the years.

"Because Christ also suffered for us." Read again verse 11. Here is the greatest example of suffering that can be found anywhere. There is no way to understand the depth of this statement. It should serve as a comfort and consolation to the saints in the adversities and agonies of this life. Read intently Philippians 2:5-8.

"Leaving us an example." We have a perfect copy as to how we are to respond to unjust suffering; not only is Christ an example of suffering, but in everything else. So we should desire to be changed into the same image in our thoughts, words, and deeds.

"That ye should follow His steps." How we need to deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow Him (Matt. 16:24). His steps are marked out in the Word of God and can be clearly seen with the spiritual eye. Are we walking as He walked?

#### VERSE 22

"Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth." The perfections of Christ are both positive and negative. He had no sin either in nature or in practice (Heb. 4:15; John 8:46).

#### VERSE 23

"Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not." A fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah (Isa. 53:7, 9).

"But committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously." We can see a little more of what Paul meant when he committed the keeping of his soul to God (II Tim. 1:12). Jesus as the perfect example underwent all that He did, knowing the Father would deal in righteousness, and He therefore could pray, "Not my will, but thine be done."

#### VERSE 24

"Who his own self." He accomplished our salvation personally and privately (Heb. 1:3; 9:26).

"Bare our sins." As a substitute and a sacrifice in the stead of His people. Our sins were laid on Him (Isa. 53:5, 6; Heb. 9:28). He took our sins and bore the total consequence for them.

"In His body on the tree." The Person and place of sacrifice met together at the appointed time.

"That we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness." Jesus died for our sins and thereby we died to sins and were raised to walk in newness of life, or to walk in paths of righteousness.

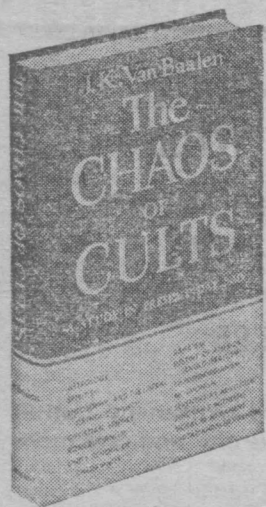
"By whose stripes ye were healed." The results of the sufferings of Christ is the making whole the sinner; thereby giving him the capacity to walk spiritually. Compare Acts 3:6-8.

#### VERSE 25

"For ye were as sheep going astray." Describing the necessity for what Christ did.

"But are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls." The glorious position of the redeemed and reconciled children of God. We have a Good, Great, and Chief Shepherd and One Who watches over His sheep.

Conclusion: What a foundation and motivation for the earthly walk of heavenly saints.



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# The Baptist Examiner Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER — P. O. BOX 71 — ASHLAND, KY. 41101

"Some Christians are openly critical of Anita Bryant. Do you condone or condemn her?"—Charleston, W. Va.

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22433 Wohlfeil  
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I have no idea who the Christians are that are critical of Mrs. Bryant, but they sure find themselves in strange company. No, I do not oppose Mrs. Bryant, in fact I am made ashamed by her. She has taken a stand that has cost her dearly, not only in name but also in wages. It is a stand that I agree with and one that every New Testament Baptist should be taking. I know that she is a woman and a Southern Baptist woman at that. However, the world does not oppose her on those grounds. The liberal media that acknowledges no morality at all, the pervers around the world, and even Madlyn Murray O'Hair all hate her because she has taken a Biblical position. I sure as the world do not want to be in agreement with a crowd like that. So, if the Lord can overlook her sex and denominational affiliation and let her accomplish a victory for Biblical morality as He obviously has, I will overlook it too and thank God for some ray of hope in these dark times.

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Kings Addition  
Baptist Church  
South Shore, Ky.

Neither. I am in complete agreement with her position on and opposition to homosexuality. "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature; and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet" (Rom. 1:26, 27).

We read of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah whose principal sin was the sin of homosexuality. (See Genesis 19:4-11).

On the other hand, I am in com-

plete disagreement with her actions relative to speaking in the churches. "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law" (1 Cor. 14:34).

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It is every person's responsibility to withstand or oppose moral evil, and I am certainly not going to condemn Anita Bryant for her efforts to stem the diabolical tide of homosexuality now sweeping over America. This is an evil that every person with the least moral fiber should vociferously protest. Indifference toward sin of any kind or degree is sin itself, and the guilt is many times compounded when so hateful an evil as homosexuality is shrugged off. The nation as a whole has given the nod to sex perversion, saying, "The Gays have a right to their own life style." Nobody has a right to sin, and homosexuality is a sin of the darkest hue. The Bible says, the homosexual "shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor. 6:9-11). This Scripture puts the homosexual in the same class as fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers and extortioners.

Moral degeneration in America has been greatly accelerated by the political green light given to homosexuality and pornography. Gov. Edmond G. Brown of California signed into law a bill called "The Homosexual Freedom Bill." President Carter appointed Ms. Jean O'Leary, a publicly acknowledged homosexual to a high federal position, and one high ranking federal employee recently boasted, "Politicians are going to have to start marching in the Gay Pride March."

While we, as a nation cannot follow the example of righteous King Asa, "Asa did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord . . . he took away the sodomites (sex pervers) out of the land" (1 Kings 15:11-12). The Lord's churches can and should preach to the nation, and to homosexuals in particular, saying, "Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of

death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them" (Rom. 1:32).

Homosexuality is not a sin beyond the pardoning grace of God. Paul says to the church at Corinth, "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Cor. 6:11). Two truths are clearly set forth in 1 Cor. 6:9-11:

1. Homosexuality is a sin which condemns to Hell. "The unrighteous . . . nor abusers of themselves with mankind shall inherit the kingdom of God."

2. Homosexuality can be forgiven by God, and the penitent "justified in the name of the Lord Jesus."

However, in order to be forgiven any sin, it must be acknowledged and confessed to God. Refusal to recognize homosexuality as a God defying and human debasing evil is to reject the scriptural light God has focused on this evil practice, and to reject God's Word is to approve of that which He has condemned.

I am confident there are many true Baptists speaking out against the awful sin of homosexuality; nevertheless, we should be thankful for Anita Bryant. "The hottest places in Hell are reserved for those, who in time of moral crisis, take the side of neutrality."

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Baptist Church  
Birmingham, Ala.



It seems that some Christians, at least by name, would crown a homosexual as king. But anyone who contends that he should be permitted to teach children, or have any contact with them in any way, does it either through ignorance, or intentional hurt to the children. Leviticus 20:13 says he "shall surely be put to death." But the woods are full of so-called preachers who want to exalt him.

I would not think of recommending to Philadelphia Baptist Church that the church support Anita Bryant, because I do not consider her work to be mission work. But my wife and I have supported her with our personal means. You can call that condoning her, if you wish. I say more power to her. I wish we had a lot more like her.

## John Imah Thanks . .

(Continued from page one)  
dressed me as Dad. I told him no, if it would make him feel any better. Just a thought here for any of you that would like to get another "Great White Father" tale started, here is a good place to start. I am already allowing Brother Imah to call me "Dad.")

After the salutation the main body of the letter begins and reads as follows:

Greetings to you, the family and the well-beloved saints in the Lord's churches there, in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Please, first of all I want you to know how much I appreciate the gift money our God has given that you all sent for the car. (Please note that he attributes the giving of this money to God, and not to you and me, which is proper; we simply sent what God had given).

I deeply appreciate the efforts made by you, Brother Halliman, and the Lord's people there in America to provide me with this car to use in the Lord's service. Thank you all. We pray that God will bless each of you personally and the churches collectively that had a part in the contributions that amounted to U.S. \$5400.00 to obtain this car. (I'll furnish you with some additional information, regarding this money, later).

Not only do I personally thank each of you, but the Calvary Baptist Church here at Calabar wishes to express their deepest thanks and appreciation for assisting us in such a great way in the ministry of the church. And not only do we thank each of you for making it possible so we could get this car, but many of you have continually prayed for us; some have sent tracts and various Christian liter-

pend on Him for any and all increase in souls saved.

I am using the car for God's glory as He opens doors for me. I have been able to hold revival meetings at the villages, Mbioto, Ikot Nseyen and various other places in Nigeria. Several have been saved at these various places and perhaps only eternity will reveal the true value of this vehicle as used here in Nigeria. Also I have started two mission stations, one at Idundu and one at Nkwa Itiat. These towns are far away from Calabar.

Please forgive me in being so slow in writing but since I have the church to pastor, do evangelistic work, travel a long distance for these two new mission points, try to find time for personal Bible study and prepare lessons, for courses especially for the new students. We do not have enough



Though barely visible, John Imah proudly sits behind wheel of new vehicle furnished him through the gifts of God's people from all over America.

ature, Bibles, cassettes and many have assisted us financially with the work. Looking at it from a human point of view, apart from the efforts of God's people there in America, this ministry would have utterly failed. But thanks be unto God, through His marvelous grace, He has touched the hearts of His saints in a land far removed from us to come to our assistance and now the work can and will go ahead.

Also I am thankful to God that He always makes ample provision for all that He ordains. (Beloved, here is a preacher that not only believes that God has ordained some things but has also ordained the means to the end to be accomplished. Praise God for preachers like this). Again I want to thank you and all that have a part in our ministry on behalf of the hungry souls here in Nigeria, many of which now will be able to hear the precious Word of God, which would not, humanly speaking, without this vehicle.

We have no silver nor gold to offer you saints, but we do pray for you that God will give you a long fruitful life and make it possible that you can even be of greater assistance to us in the future than you have been in the past; that you might help us to sow more seed in Jesus' name. The life is in the Seed and not the sower (thank God for that statement), so please help us to be able to spread the Word of God and de-

Text Books for all the students; we have far more students than we do Text Books, so you can see that I have little time for correspondence. (I personally know after having been with Brother Imah that he would not average over five hours sleep out of every 24 and perhaps now not that much, also that his meals do not come on a regular basis like most folk).

Please Brother Halliman, and brethren and sisters in America and Papua, New Guinea, continue to pray for us. Your prayers and support of the work in Nigeria is greatly needed and appreciated. Thank you once again for helping me so much already. May God's richest blessings be upon you all. Amen.

In His love,  
John A. Imah

Beloved, the above with the exceptions of a couple of sentences, that would be repetitious, contains the entire text of Brother Imah's letter. I am happy to be able to share it with you and trust that it will be as much of a blessing to you, as it was and still is to me. Not wanting to detract too much from his letter, there were a couple of things that I have saved until now to comment on and I trust that you will sincerely pray about these things.

Since I have just quoted from Brother Imah's letter about the shortage of the text books for the (Continued on page 5, column 2)

## BIBLE KEEPER CASES

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER  
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PAGE FOUR



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The editor urges our readers to contribute articles to this column. Articles "FOR CHRISTIAN BOYS" should be written by Christian men and boys, and "FOR CHRISTIAN GIRLS" by Christian women and girls. Such articles must be at least one page, typed and doubled spaced, yet it must not exceed two such pages. Each article should be accompanied by your name and address as well as the name of the Baptist church where you are a member.

### "PUSHED OR PULLED"

HALFORD E. LUCCOCK

"Sore they pushed me" (Ps. 118: 13 McFadyen).

There have been many divisions of men into contrasting classes; into those who borrow and those who lend; those who lift and those who lean; those with eyes in the front of their heads and those with eyes in the back. But it is doubtful if humanity can be separated into two more significant classes than the two suggested by this verse from the 118th Psalm: Those who are pushed and those who are pulled.

That word "pushed" has a strongly modern, urban quality about it. We spend much of our time being pushed. One of the New York newspapers not long ago gave space to the reminiscences and observations on life and people of a subway guard whose daily task for twenty-seven years was pushing people into subway cars. We may well exclaim, "What a life!" But what of the "pushed"? How about being pushed for all the years instead of pushing?

That barbaric process of pushing people may well stand as a symbol of many of the experiences of present day life for millions. They are crowded, shoved, impelled, propelled by forces over which they have no control. The dying exclamation of Tom Corwin, an early United States senator from Ohio, "Bury me in an open field, I've been crowded all my life," would find an echo in many a heart today.

This picture of physical crowding and pushing gives a true report of the interior mechanics of many minds. George F. Babbitt speaks for a large number when he says, in the novel, BABBITT, "I have never done anything in my life that I really wanted to do." He was pushed; never pulled.

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TRANSLATED BY JANE ELLIS



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Viewed in their externals, two lives may appear to be largely the same; viewed in their internal motivation, they are worlds apart. One life is pushed by circumstances, compelled by outward events. The other is pulled by an ideal, impelled by a dream, an aspiration; constrained by a great fellowship and faith.

Pilate was pushed—"desiring to the crowd." Paul was pulled—"the love of Christ constraineth us."

And you—are you pushed or pulled?

### John Imah Thanks . .

(Continued from page four)  
students in the Bible School there at the church, I have a suggestion to help him solve that problem and it is a real problem and time consuming, inasmuch as he has to reproduce all this material by hand. It would be a real blessing to Brother Imah, saving him days of work that he could utilize in other things (maybe give him another hour or two of sleep each day). It would be a real blessing to some of you and an enormous help to the Philadelphia Baptist Church of Birmingham and Brother Cook if someone, or several of you, would write to Brother Cook and ask him what the cost would be to send an extra 50 sets of these Text Books for the work there in Nigeria. They now have two Bible Schools operating. At my last hearing from Brother James he had 47 students enrolled in the Bible School there at Philadelphia Baptist Church, and I do not know the number there at Calvary Baptist Church in Calabar. (I expect that it would come close to that number if not exceed it). Apart from this, they have new enrollments quite frequently. I know that 50 extra sets apart from what has already been sent, sounds like a lot but I seriously doubt if even that would be enough right now, to say nothing of the time between now and when they would actually get to start using them. Brother Cook and the church he pastors are carrying a tremendous load and this would help them. Then, I know of no other place where these Text Books would be more appreciated or more used than in these two Bible Schools in Nigeria.

The second thing that I wanted to mention is in regard to the car that Brother Imah got for the work. As you will note from the pictures, the vehicle is not a Volkswagen as was previously suggested, but it is a Datsun 4 door pickup, model 1500. I think it was in my last letter to Brother Imah before leaving America last June to come here, that I recommended that he get a Datsun rather than the Volkswagen. I had several reasons for suggesting this which I will not go into at this time, but, be that as it may, the vehicle that he got was the kind mentioned above. This vehicle will be far more serviceable to him than the Volkswagen would have been. At the same time, this vehicle cost considerably more than the one that he had sent the Pro-forma Invoice on. To put the original car that he was talking about, on the road ready to operate, would have cost \$5400.00 and that is exactly what was sent. However, the one that he got cost approximately \$7400.00. As you can see this is \$2000.00 more than what we sent. Frankly I do not know how Brother Imah is making the payments on this extra two thousand. I know that he does not have any money nor do any members of his church.

When I was there in 1976 there were only four of the members that had any income at all. I know that a couple of churches are sending him small amounts along, and a couple more individuals lesser amounts, but I would say that all the contributions that he gets each month will not be enough to meet the payments that he is having to make on the car.

Brother Imah has not asked me to mention this and will not know that I have until he reads it in the paper, but it would be such a blessing to dear Brother Imah if enough of you would ask the Lord to provide you with some extra money until we get enough to clear the debt on this car. Two thousand dollars divided among 10,000 readers of TBE would only amount to fifty cents per person.

Inasmuch as my pastor, Brother Cockrell, is already doing the work of several men, I hate to burden him with an extra task so if you feel that the Lord would have you to help pay off the balance owing on Brother Imah's car, you could send any amount that you wish to my wife in Kentucky and she will send you a receipt by return mail and will have a notice in TBE when the amount of \$2000.00 has been reached. She will then get one check made for the entire amount like we did for the \$5400.00 and send to Brother Imah.

Of course, if you had rather, you can send direct to Brother Imah. But knowing human nature (and Brother Imah is no different than other people), and how easy that small amounts of money are to get away, especially in his case where one dollar looks like a hundred, it would be much better to collect all the money and then send it to him and tell him to go pay off the debt. This is one sure way of getting it done.

Now without further comment on the car. I want to share a picture (page four) that will give you a good view of how your money was spent in the initial purchase of the vehicle and we hope for the remaining amount owing on it. Next issue, D. V., we will have an article with a doctrinal statement of what Brother Imah believes and preaches. May the Lord bless each of you.

### The Earth Without . .

Continued from page one  
thus the world was left again without a righteous man upon it. The scenes of alarm and anguish of soul from the apprehension of immediate destruction, experienced during the seven days and nights that followed, no inspired pensman has described—and what mortal pen can portray them? It was a time of distress, but not equal to the time that is awaiting this earth, when all Christians are once more taken from the earth while the wrath of God is being visited upon its ungodly inhabitants.

That threatened destruction did come, and those mocking unbelievers were all swept away, and it was God's righteous protest against sin. Here was a judgment of nations and their everlasting punishment, since those nations have never more existed on the face of the earth. So it will be at the end of this present dispensation just now drawing to a close, this Friday of the world's Great Week, whose sun is already far, very far down the western sky; and how true the words of Christ, "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be when the Son of man cometh." It is asked with emphasis, "When the Lord cometh will he find faith on the earth?" Not a solitary believer. Who of all the world does not laugh and mock, when the coming judgment threatened is explained to them? How very few of professed Christians can be made to believe or care anything about it! Here is a test of genuine hope, and a state of salvation. The language of all those who constitute the Bride of Christ is that of earnest longing and patient waiting: "Even so,

come, Lord Jesus, come quickly;" while the wicked and slothful will say: "The Lord delayeth his coming, and will smite and abuse his fellow-servants."

"The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, and shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 24:50-51).

Let us try to conceive the state of this earth under the reign of Antichrist.

1. The world will be without a Christian Church and be filled with false and Anti-Christian churches, in which the gospel is corrupted and the ordinances perverted. There will not be a Christian minister to teach the people the right way or to reprove error, but the world will be filled with false teachers who pervert the right way of the Lord—the emissaries of Satan which are the ministers of Antichrist, as all teachers of false doctrines, are. There will not be a Christian father or mother to offer prayer for a child or direct its footsteps to the Cross. No Christian brother or sister, neighbor or friend—but a world filled with false religions, and false religious teachers, who, at the close, renouncing all faith in the God of heaven, will influence their people to worship a military hero as the only God and Saviour—"The Antichrist." The devotees of humanly devised religious organizations among us, in fact do now worship the authors of those so-called churches.

2. Abounding iniquity and bestial lust, as it was in the days before the flood, and as it was in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah before their destruction, will every where prevail. Scoffing infidelity and blasphemy, political revaluations and civil wars, Communism and Nihilism, rapine, murder and bloodshed will oversweep the land.

3. Nations in all quarters of the globe will take up arms against nations, and the Black Horse of War will go forth everywhere, with banners rolled in blood, while pestilence, famine, death and Hell will follow in his train.

4. Meanwhile, the frog spirits will have accomplished their fool mission, and have marshaled all the kings of the earth together under the Imperial leadership of a personal Antichrist, who will be worshipped as God. Some future Emperor of the ten kingdoms of Europe, who is called chief of Ros, Meshech and Tubal, and who seems distinctly pointed to as "the King of the North," will lead the nations on to the last great battle of God Almighty.

5. There will be alarming portents in the heavens above, and the darkening of the sun, moon, and stars, and the powers of Heaven will be shaken, and earthquakes will threaten the dissolution of the framework of nature until it will be more fearful to live than to die.

This "Antichrist" will be destroyed with the Beast and the False Prophet by the brightness

of the Saviour's personal coming. Let us now see if we are not justified in these statements by the Word of God. Isaiah foretold it in these words:

"Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers and shut thy doors about thee; hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain" (Isa. 26:20-21).

Daniel foretells it: "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince who standeth for the children of thy people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as there never was since there was a nation, even to that same time."

Jeremiah thus speaks of this period as it relates to the Jews:

"For thus saith the Lord: We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? Wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it; it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it" (Jer. 30:5-7).

Zechariah more specifically describes this terrible "time of trouble" that will fall upon the Jews, of the house of Judah, who will have returned and rebuilt and inhabited Jerusalem with vast wealth of gold and silver and cattle:

"Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided, and the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city" (Zech. 14:1-2).

"And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people; and they shall say, The Lord is my God" (Zech. 13:8-9).

This is the time Christ alludes to.

"Behold your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord" (Matt. 23:38-39).

Matthew thus relates Christ's prediction and tells us that except those days are shortened, no flesh would survive upon the earth, but for the elect's sake—the Jews—the days will be shortened. We see from Zechariah that two-thirds of all the Jews who gather back will be slain, and the rest are in the hands of their (Continued on page 8, column 2)

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## How Great Thou Art

(Continued from Page Three)  
sovereignty of God.

Look on that day when they would cross the Jordan River at floodtide. Just as soon as the priests stepped down into the waters, the Word of God says that the waters cut off from above so that there was a division in the river. The waters flowed on and the rest of the water piled up, heap upon heap, wave upon wave, and the children of Israel marched dry shod across the Jordan River.

If you want to see the sovereignty of God then look at the ravens when Elijah is hiding for his life at the time of a drouth, and the ravens bring him food day by day. He had a raven for a butler, and a raven for a maid, and a raven for a cook. God held back the ravenous nature of those birds of prey so that instead of eating the food themselves, they brought it into the prophet Elijah. I tell you, beloved, you can't read Scriptures like this without realizing "how great Thou art." Truly we get a picture from this of the greatness of the sovereignty of God.

If you would see perhaps the greatest illustration of the sovereignty of God in all the Bible, then look at those Philistines when they had the ark of God that they had captured, and they wanted to get rid of it. They tried sending it around to various cities, and every place they sent it, it brought trouble to the people. Finally the people heard about the trouble they had at Ekron and Gaza and all the towns round about, and when they would think about sending it to another town the inhabitants would say, "No, don't send the ark over there." Finally when they didn't want to keep it, and they couldn't get anybody else to take it, they said, "We had better send it back home. Maybe these plagues came from God and maybe they didn't. Maybe the troubles that have befallen us didn't come from the Lord. Maybe they just happened to fall on us. Maybe the mice did overrun our wheat fields. Maybe it is true that our god, Dagon, fell off his pedestal and was killed. It's all true, but maybe it just happened. Maybe it wasn't a curse from God." So they said, "We'll just try it out and see. We'll just take two young heifers that have never been broken and we'll hook those heifers up to a cart. We'll take two that are fresh with calves and we'll leave the calves and we'll hook those heifers to a cart. We'll set the ark on a cart and we'll turn them loose. If those young heifers take that ark back to the Jews we'll know that it was of God, and if they don't, we'll assume that all this has just happened to us." They turned the heifers loose and they forgot all about their calves in

the barn. The Word of God says that they went down the highway, peaceful, contented, lowing as they went, and they took the straight road back into the land of Canaan. I tell you, beloved, God is a sovereign God. He can take a young heifer and cause that heifer to react contrary to her nature. I come back to my text which says, "Who is so great a God as our God?"

### II GOD IS GREAT IN SALVATION.

We read:  
"Salvation is of the Lord" (Jonah 2:9).

Beloved, salvation is of the Lord. It is not of man. It is not something that man works up or prays down. Rather, it is of the Lord.

God is great in the planning of salvation. Can you imagine anything planned greater than God planned salvation? When you were getting ready to build a house you made many plans concerning the building of that house. When you were getting ready to make some investment you made many plans relative to that investment. Maybe when you were getting ready to get married you made lots of plans concerning your marriage. I tell you, beloved, nothing was ever planned with the meticulous care that God planned our salvation. Listen:

"Whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD" (Rev. 13:8).

I ask you, are you saved, are you a child of God? Do you know Jesus Christ as your Saviour? Then if you do, the salvation that you are enjoying was planned of God before the foundation of the world. You may have planned on your marriage for a few weeks, or you may have planned on buying your house for a few weeks or months. You may have planned on your education for maybe several years but God planned our salvation before the foundation of the world. Oh, how great our salvation is!

Not only consider the planning of it, consider how He chose the subjects of salvation. We didn't choose our own salvation, but the subjects of salvation were chosen of the Lord. Listen:

"The earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world" (Rev. 17:8).

You say, "Brother Gilpin, I went to church sometime ago and I heard the preacher say as they were getting ready to sing the invitation hymn that God was up there with a recording angel beside Him, and that recording angel was just ready to dip his pen into the ink well to write down the names of the individuals that might profess faith, and God was getting

## IS "THAT" IN THE BIBLE?



Question:

AT WHAT DID GOD WINK?

Answer:

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

ready to record them in the Lamb's Book of Life." I know, beloved, I have heard the same thing, but that is not what you read in the Bible. That is what you have heard from an Arminian pulpit. The Bible says that God recorded the names in the Lamb's Book of Life before the foundation of the world. If you are saved, God didn't make an entry in the Lamb's Book of Life the day that you were saved. If you are lost, yet one of His elect, God is not waiting until you are saved to write your name in the Lamb's Book of Life. Instead, your name was inscribed there from before the foundation of the world.

Listen again:

"But we are bound to give thanks alway 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).

"According as he hath CHOSEN US IN HIM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD" (Eph. 1:4).

Beloved, when did God lay down the foundation of the world? I don't know, but I know one thing. Before God ever laid down one single rock, before God ever sprinkled any dust on top of it, before God ever scattered any grass seed in that dust, before even a tiny violet peeped from beneath the sod in the springtime, before a golden hardy sunflower raised its head aloft in the fall, God had already chosen us in Christ Jesus. I tell you, beloved, in the planning of our salvation, in the choosing of the subjects of it, and even in the education of the world for the coming of that salvation, surely how great God was.

Go back to Old Testament and find how God educated the world for the coming of salvation. Adam sinned. God killed an animal. He used that animal as a sacrifice for Adam's salvation. You read how Abel brought a sacrifice and God accepted it. You read about the types and the shadows and about all of the offering of the Old Testament. What do they tell us? God was educating the world so the world would recognize salvation when Jesus walked on the shores of the sea of Galilee. Four thousand years passed in which time they offered sacrifice on top of sacrifice. Hundreds and thousands and millions of lambs and bullocks had died through the years. For four thousand years God educated the people. One day a man walked along the shores of the sea of Galilee and John the Baptist looked at Him and said, "Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world."

Beloved, one-fourth of a million lambs had been slain every year through the Old Testament dispensation, but never were those lambs referred to in the plural. It was always in the singular. Now when Jesus walked by, John said, "Behold the Lamb of God." For four thousand years God had been educating His people to recognize salvation when Jesus Christ appeared in the flesh in Palestine.

Not only is our salvation great in the planning of it, in the choosing of the subject of it, and in educating the world to recognize salvation when Jesus appeared, but it is great in the execution of it. Did you ever stop to think how God times our salvation so perfectly? One day Jesus was born. Did it

just happen to come to pass at that time? No, for we read concerning the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons" (Gal. 4:5).

Beloved, Jesus Christ came in the fulness of time. Just exactly when God's time was, Jesus Christ put in His appearance.

Not only was it timed perfectly, but all the prophecies were fulfilled, even the minutest detail. If you will read in the Old Testament you will find it says that not a bone of Him would be broken. Then when Jesus Christ was on the cross, with a thief on the right hand and a thief on the left hand dying, the Word of God tells us that the crowd came to examine them to see whether they could take them down from the cross, and they broke the legs of the thieves, one on either side, to hurry their death, but when they came to Jesus they found that He was already dead, so that not a bone in the Son of God was broken. Oh, beloved, how great is our salvation even in the execution of it!

Then notice how great God is in making it real to us. We read:

"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified" (I Cor. 1:21-23).

Beloved, here is a Scripture that ought to thrill our hearts. God makes salvation real to us in the most unusual way. There is not another religion that preaches like Christianity. Mohammedanism makes converts at the point of a sword. The religion of Zoroaster, Confucius and Buddha does not make converts by preaching. Rather, they make converts by being born into a certain class. Beloved, God chose a different form. It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

Isn't it about the most foolish thing you can think of, to preach? (I'm not talking about foolish preaching now; I'm talking about the foolishness of preaching). To think that God would use this as the way of making salvation real to us, that He would cause a man to stand before you and attempt to teach you the things concerning the Word of God and as that individual faithfully does so, God makes salvation real to you. It is the most foolish thing in the world.

Paul says that the Jews require a sign. The Greeks seek after wisdom. But how about us? We preach Christ crucified. I say to you, in the planning of our salvation, in the choosing of the subjects of our salvation, and in making salvation real to us, we stand in amazement to say, "How great Thou art."

### III

#### GOD IS GREAT IN SECURITY.

I can't emphasize it enough that God is great in security. If you are saved, you are saved because God saved you, and you are kept

saved because God has kept you saved. You haven't kept yourself saved. Rather, you are saved, and kept saved, and you are secure because of God's greatness in security. Listen:

"And I give unto them ETERNAL LIFE; and they shall NEVER PERISH, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand" (John 10:28, 29).

"Who shall also CONFIRM YOU UNTO THE END" (I Cor. 1:8).

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature SHALL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US from the love of God, Which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:38, 39).

"For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that HE IS ABLE TO KEEP that which I have committed unto him against that day" (II Tim. 1:12).

"Now unto him that is ABLE TO KEEP YOU FROM FALLING and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy" (Jude 1:24).

Beloved, I say to you, God is great in security.

You say, "Brother Gilpin, do you believe that if a man is saved he can go out and live any kind of life he wants to and go to Heaven?" I am not preaching that at all. I am just saying that if God saved you, God will keep you. You don't keep yourself. You have two natures. If you are unsaved, one of those natures is dead and the other is alive. That spiritual nature is dead and the physical nature is alive. That is why you like to live like the Devil. That is why you like to do the things of the world. But the day that God saves you He makes that spiritual nature alive. Now you have two natures and both of them are alive. The old fleshly nature is still alive and you still want to live like the Devil, but that new nature wants to do what is right. That new nature does to the old nature just what a bridle does to a horse. A bridle controls a horse, and the new nature helps to control that old fleshly nature.

Beloved, I say to you, your security doesn't depend on you to come to church every time that you are a good boy or a good girl. Your security doesn't depend upon your strength of character. Rather, your security depends upon God Himself.

### IV

#### GOD IS GREAT IN SERAPHIC PRAISE.

Go back and read when this world came into existence. What do you suppose happened first when the world came into existence? When God spoke and a world was formed, the first thing that took place was that the angels of God clapped their hands, and the sons of God shouted His praise. Listen:

"When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy" (Job 38:7).

On the night that Jesus was born, an angel of God came down (Continued on page 8, column 3)

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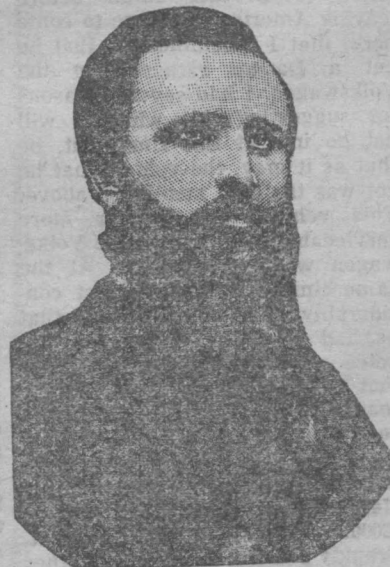
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MARCH 24, 1979

PAGE SIX

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

French intelligence sources report that on January 15, 1979, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini sent an emissary to Sofia, Bulgaria, to meet personally with Soviet dictator Leonid Brezhnev. At that meeting a secret treaty was signed with Russia in the name of the Ayatollah.

One of the most important clauses was that under the Ayatollah's new government the Soviet controlled Tudeh, the Iranian Communist Party, will have free reign with its propaganda.

On February 13, 1979, in Communist East Berlin, Nurreddin Kiannuri, head of the Iranian Communist Party, which was banned by the Shah, endorses the Khomeini regime and says that it will "offer a chance for the Communist Party to work once again for the good of the people."

The Russians are using Khomeini for their own political purposes. When his usefulness is terminated, he will be replaced with a Soviet puppet ruler. This is all setting the stage for the long-predicted Persian alliance with Russia (Ezek. 38:5). Iran of today is the Persia of the Old Testament.

The largest number of divorces ever recorded in the U.S. in one month, 100,000, were registered last June. The number of divorces went to 5.6 per 1000 persons—5.7 percent more than June 1977.

The empire of the Armstrong Church of God is in serious trouble. On January 2, state law enforcement officers and a contingent from the Pasadena Police Department swooped down upon the Worldwide Church of God's Pasadena headquarters. Administrative offices and vaults containing property records and bank accounts were cordoned off. State security officers were posted at key points to prevent records from being removed.

Some of the evidence discovered in the investigation proved to be

very interesting. Checks drawn in just the last few days before the raid include one to Herbert Armstrong for \$40,000; one to Natalie Rader for \$1,144; one to Rader's secretary, Virginia Kinston, for \$2,500 (marked "bonus"); and checks to Rader for \$2,400, \$4,940, and one for \$35,000 marked "bonus."

During the trial of Stanley Rader, the right hand man of Herbert W. Armstrong, the press reported that Rader had hired a large number of lawyers to represent him at a rate of \$150 per hour per lawyer. Rader testified that under the terms of the employment contract he has with the church, he gets \$200,000 per year plus expenses. He also admitted that under the agreement he would receive \$100,000 per year plus expenses to the year 2003 even if he stepped down as adviser to Herbert Armstrong.

Throughout the trial Herbert Armstrong remained out of state in Tucson where he cannot be subpoenaed by the attorney general of California. Herbert is working hard to raise money. On January 14, 1979, he sent out a letter which said: "I have to ask you to SACRIFICE AS NEVER BEFORE. Send the most generous offerings it is possible for you to send to defend God's work. And please state in your letter, in your own words, that this money is YOUR ENDORSEMENT OF MY APOSTLESHIP, AND THE MONEY IS TO BE USED FOR DEFENDING GOD'S WORK AS I, Christ's Apostle, deem best."

Rumors of break-ins and theft at church headquarters are rampant. On Friday, January 19, a spokesman for Judge Weisman told the LOS ANGELES TIMES that security at the church's headquarters had broken down and vital assets, including gold bullion and coins, expensive paintings, and computer tapes containing financial information may be missing.

To add to the confusion, members are being told by their min-

isters and by Herbert that the church is being unfairly "persecuted" and that "Satan is attacking." It is a madhouse on the campus of Ambassador College. Wild accusations are flying all over and employees are running to the right-wing leaders urging them to fire fellow employees who are not as fanatical as they are. This is all happening on the campus of what Armstrong calls "the true church of God." Said one minister concerning the campus pandemonium: "I'm staying away from the Armstrong campus. Those men have killing in their eyes." (Adapted from AMBASSADOR REPORT, Jan. 21, 1979).

CHATHAM, N.J. (EP)—Trans World Radio, an international Christian broadcasting organization, celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary on February 22, reports Paul E. Freed, president and founder. Trans World Radio is an interdenominational, evangelical organization whose theme through the years has been "To God be the glory, great things He hath done." The ministry began as the Voice of Tangier in Tangier, Morocco, February 22, 1954. Ralph Freed, father to the president and now deceased, announced the first broadcasts in Spanish and English over a used 2,500 watt transmitter. Today the Gospel message is being heard in over 80 languages. Its combined transmitter power is over 5,000,000 watts.

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (EP)—The Assemblies of God, one of the major traditional Pentecostal Churches, reports it is experiencing a surge of membership growth largely due to increasing numbers of "new charismatics."

An Assemblies spokesman here said membership has grown from some 625,000 in 1969 to 751,000 in 1974 and 939,312 members as of June 1978, with Sunday school membership now 1.28 million.

Some regional reports indicate that many Assemblies churches are "bursting at the seams." Clarence Lambert, superintendent of the Rocky Mountain District, said, "We're not seeking for new members or to take others away from their churches, but our arms and doors are open."

Mr. Lambert estimated that 50 million Americans have had a charismatic experience, and many "new charismatics" are coming to older Pentecostal groups such as the Assemblies of God for mature support.

NEW YORK (EP)—For the second year in a row, ANITA BRYANT has been voted Most Admired Woman in the annual poll taken by Good Housekeeping Magazine. Many of the letters written in connection with the survey indicated that even persons who do not agree with Ms. Bryant's views on homosexuals admire her for having the courage to express them in public.

One reader wrote, "She is the kind of inspired woman we need more of. Whether you stand with her or against her, you have to hand it to her for courage in hanging in there despite criticism and loss of income."

MILAN (EP)—The Italian government announced that it is spending \$550,000 to restore and preserve Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, "Last Supper." The fresco, considered by many to be the Renaissance artist's greatest painting, is on the wall of the refectory of the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan.

The renowned picture of Christ and His 12 apostles just after the moment when Christ has said, "One of you will betray me," has long been in a partially ruined state because of Leonardo's own unsuccessful experiments with the materials he used to paint the scene in 1498.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—"Many people believe that what we have in Rhodesia is a 'racial war,' but that's not really true," said Francis Grim, Jr., of Operation Rhodesia. "The real war is for the souls of men and women," he stated at the National Religious Broadcasters convention held recently in this city.

Grim, who explained that he

sold his car in order to finance his trip to the convention, was attending in order to "tell other Christians about the plight of believers in Rhodesia." He said that Christians in America can help Rhodesia in several ways. He wants to "flood the country with Bibles," both to encourage believers and to help influence the Marxist influence in the country.

The World Home Bible League, a Scripture distribution organization located in South Holland, Illinois, recently sent almost two tons of New Testaments and Scripture portions to Rhodesia. Grim says that through special circumstances which God provided, the Scriptures were able to come into the country tax free, an extremely unusual situation in a country where import taxes are generally prohibitive.

Grim expressed fear that in as little as six months, Rhodesia could be closed to the gospel. He explained that certain of the forces at work in the country espouse Marxist philosophies which include atheistic doctrines. Grim says these forces view Christians—whether black or white—as enemies of the "new Rhodesia." "I'm afraid that people in the United States view our conflict as a simple case of racial struggle. But it is the Marxist influence that Christians of both races fear."

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has urged federal officials not to include provisions for funding non-public schools which would violate the principle of church-state separation.

## Independence . . .

(Continued from Page One)  
RIGHT to use church independence to violate what the Scripture teaches. Men are told to withdraw themselves from disorderly brethren, heretics, those who refuse to consent to wholesome doctrine and church independence does NOT GIVE any Church or pastor any right to violate the Scriptures.

True churches of Christ are to follow the Scriptures and they are not to violate them for friendship, fellowship or whatever the reason may be.

So, may I sum up this article by saying that church independence is simply a matter of churches not being lorded over by other churches and that the business and affairs of the church are to be governed by the democratic body. Church independence gives no member in the church the right, nor even the pastor, to lead the church to violate the Scriptures, regardless what the reason may be.

So may the Holy Spirit cause true churches of Christ to use the matter of church independence in its proper place and for God-honoring reasons and not for the purpose of violating the clear teaching of the Scriptures.

So may the Lord bless you and I hope that the Lord's churches will be careful not to use independence as a reason to act contrary to the Scriptures.

## Bible Baptism

(Continued from page one)  
vile, if God once make thee to believe, then thou mayest be baptized; but not else. It was not his godly parents, it was not his reading, it was not his coming to Jerusalem to worship, it was not his willingness to be baptized; but it was his faith—"if thou believest thou mayest be baptized." The Greek saith, it is lawful; it is according to Christ's Law. It is lawful for none but believers to be baptized.

Then next we read, "They went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him." Verse 38. Behold a man, the great treasurer of the Queen of Ethiopia, a rich man, an honorable man, a religious man; a man, 'tis like having many attendants around his chariot. He stops all, and commands all to stand still, till he yields obedience to his Lord and Master in water baptism. He can now go down into the water for Him who had

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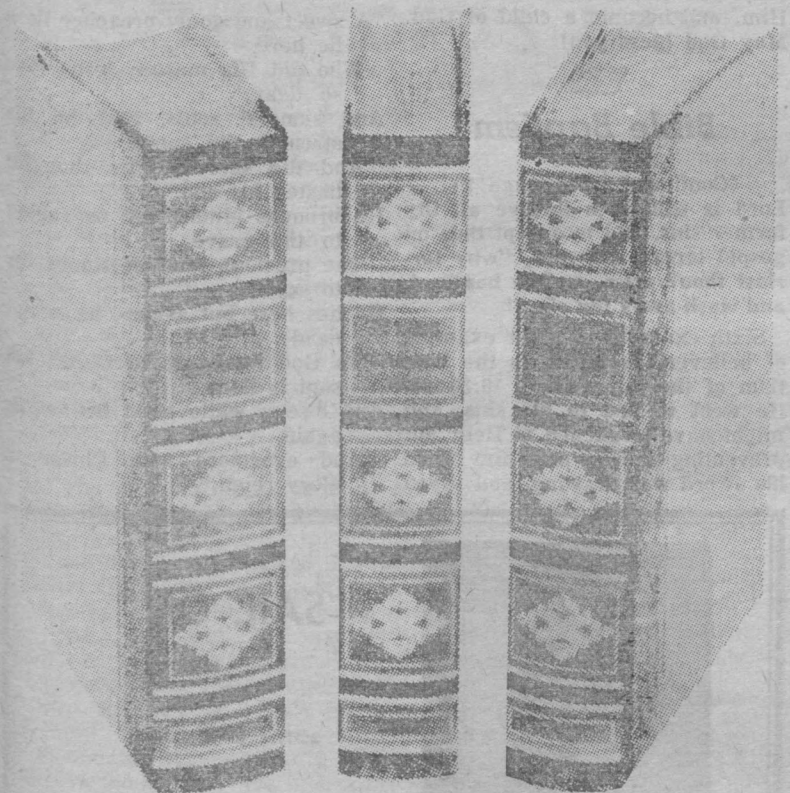
come down from Heaven for him; he counts it no disgrace to obey Christ who speaks to him by his poor servant Philip. Oh the condescension of truly gracious souls! No argument works like love. Therefore, "if ye love me keep my commandments."

Here's going down, and coming up, like the glorious ways of Christ; he first casts down, then he raiseth up; first brings to the grave, and then raiseth up, saying, "Return ye sons of men." Furthermore, we read of the baptized Eunuch, "And he went on his way rejoicing" verse 39. Oh what triumph is in Christ's ways; in keeping (though not for keeping) His commands there is (as well as shall be) great reward. We read, "He went on his way" and truly it is written "the righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger" (Job 17:9). How many have stuck in their way, wept in their way, drooped in their way; but when baptized, have gone on their way rejoicing. He might have a sad heart, though he was a rich treasurer. Riches could not content him, but "being baptized, he went on his way rejoicing." This also was the case with the jailor, who, being baptized, "rejoiced, believing in God with all his house" (Acts 16:33-34).

Fifth example. The next example we come to, is the baptizing of the famous Apostle Paul. Read Acts 22:16. "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins." Wouldest thou have thy soul filled with joy? Wilt thou take Christ for thy Lord? Then why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized: He that appeared to thee in the way when thou wast a persecutor, and stopped thee from going to Hell when thou wast running thither, hath sent me, saith Ananias (Acts 9:15, 17). "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized" (Acts 22:16). Thou hast been a persecutor, and now I must shew thee that thou must be a preacher, and a sufferer (Acts 9:15, 16). And, therefore, why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized. Accept at once of the terms and tenders of mercy; bid mercy welcome, but do not put it off a day. Why dost thou tarry? Dost think thyself unworthy and therefore tarriest? Do not let that hinder; I tell thee from the Lord, thou art a chosen vessel (Acts 9:15). The (Continued on page 8, column 4)

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*KHYM, Gilmer, Tex. Sun.	1:00- 1:30 p.m.	1060	10,000 AM
*WYRD, Syracuse, N.Y. Sun.	12:30- 1:00 p.m.	1540	1000 AM
*WKNG, Tallap'sa, Ga. Sun.	8:00- 8:30 a.m.	1060	2500 AM
*Clear Channel			

### The Whole Truth

(Continued from Page Two)

not saved by good works, but those who have been saved by grace are careful to maintain good works!

The grace that saves us will teach us to love, fear and obey God, to depend upon Him, to devote ourselves to Him, to observe all those religious duties He has appointed, to pray to Him, to praise Him, to meditate on His Word, to attend public worship, to be baptized and to observe the Lord's Supper. The saving grace of God teaches and requires such deportment. It is obligating and constraining. It constrains us to love God and live for Him, to lose our life for the gospel's sake, to be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, to put on the Lord Jesus Christ, to do all for the glory of God, to put the kingdom first, to seek the salvation of the lost, to make a fair show in the flesh, to be blameless and harmless the sons of God without rebuke in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, to go on to perfection, to keep His commandments. If the grace of God does not cause a person to do these things, then grace would be disgrace!

Do not misunderstand me. These things are performed by those who are saved by God's grace. It is worse than foolish to prescribe all these good works to the alien sinner as a means of being saved by grace. To do this is like prescribing actions to a person unborn as the means of being born.

Good works are seen in the lives of those who are already saved by grace. These good works are the evidence of spiritual life, not the cause of it.

The grace of God teaches us to look for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Verse 13 of the text says: "Looking for the blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." Those saved by grace are living in expectation of seeing Christ at any moment in the clouds of Heaven. The man who does not daily look for the Redeemer's return knows little about God's grace.

I'm not what I want to be. I'm not what I'm goin' to be, but I thank God I'm not what I was before He saved me by free grace.

### The Earth Without . .

(Continued from page five)

"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

Luke's account of it is this: "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the

powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape those things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21: 25, 28, 36).

How could mortal fear and anguish and failing of heart be described in more terse and terrible language? The reader will mark that when Christians notice these things beginning to come to pass, they are commanded to look up, for their redemption from them all, as well as their own full redemption, will be just at hand—the day of their rapture from the earth "to meet their Lord in the air."

The interested reader will see Christ's last revelation upon this subject in Revelation 16:17-21, where the seventh vial of wrath is poured out upon the air, indicating that, like the atmosphere, its effects will be pervasive.

But what is most astonishing is, not that the wicked world cares for none of these things, but that the mass of professed Christians, with all these urgent warnings sounding in their ears, when they must know, if they read the Scriptures, that this event is near — almost at our very doors, as all the most trustworthy of Biblical expositors admit, can not be interested about them, care not to know any thing about them—in fact, dislike to hear any thing about them! How many of the religious teachers of the people discourage any investigation of these things and speak of them from their pulpits and to their people as matters of idle and profitless speculation! What will be the case of all such when Christ does come? (Read Matthew 24 and 25 chapters).

(THE WORK OF CHRIST CONSUMMATED IN SEVEN DISPENSATIONS, pp. 423-430, 1928 edition)

### How Great Thou Art

(Continued from page six)

out of Heaven with a message that any ambassador would have thanked God for the privilege of delivering. That angel came not to kings, and not to princes, and not to royalty, and not to the rulers of the world, but the angel came to the lowly shepherds of the field. The message was:

"Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10).

Immediately the whole sky was peopled with the angels singing: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men" (Luke 2:14).

Some of these days the Lord Jesus Christ is going to take possession of this world that has been in the hands of the Devil, this world that has been controlled by Satan. Some of these days Jesus is going to take possession of it and what is going to happen? Listen:

"And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and has redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them,

heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever" (Rev. 5:9-14).

On the morning of creation the angels sang His praise. On the night of His birth the angels sang His praise. On the day that He takes possession of this world, the angels and the redeemed of God shall sing His praise. Out yonder, someday, when even rebellious Hell-deserving, Hell-born sinners are cast into Hell, the saints of God are still going to sing His praise, for we read:

"And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying ALLELUIA. And again they said, ALLELUIA, And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; ALLELUIA: And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying ALLELUIA: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth" (Rev. 19:1, 3-6).

What has happened? The unsaved, Hell-deserving, Hell-bent sinners have been cast into Hell, and the saints of God sing His praise because they know that He whose praise the angels sang on the morn of creation, He whose praise the angels sang the night that He was born, He whose praise was sung by the angels on the day that He takes final possession of this world, that He has had His way, and even though the unsaved go into Hell, God's saints must sing the praise of Jesus because they know that He hath done all things well.

#### CONCLUSION.

I say then, He is great in His sovereignty. He is great in salvation, He is great in security, and He is great in seraphic praise. Shall we not then say together, "How great Thou art."

You may look upon Him as a great God, but do you look upon His Son as your Saviour? May you receive Him as your Saviour, and may you go out singing the praise of our great God. If you are saved, come out on God's side and ask for baptism. If you are not saved, may you trust Him and receive Him, and become a child of God. May God bless you!

### Bible Baptism

(Continued from page 7)

Lord is willing to forgive all thy former sins, and to accept thee on gospel terms, and now, "why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins."

Sixth example. Another example of believer's baptism, is the baptism of the jailor (Acts 16:30-32). He went to bed in his sins, and might have awakened in Hell; but preventing mercy met him when his sword was drawing, and saved

both his soul and his body. Paul cried aloud: "Do thyself no harm," there is hope for thee. And he, trembling, answered, "What must I do?" The soul that trembleth before the Almighty God will not only cry out what shall I have, but what shall I do? "Believe," saith Paul, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ." And to demonstrate his willingness to yield obedience to the Lord Jesus, and to accept of Him on gospel-terms, he is baptized the same hour of the night (Verse 33). Note also, Verse 34, "that all his household believed and were baptized." As many as believed, so many were baptized.

Seventh example. Another example you have of Lydia (Acts 16: 14) a godly woman, a praying woman. God opened her heart to attend His Word by Paul, and being at the river she was baptized. When the heart is shut, how backward are souls to obey Christ! One draw from Christ makes the soul run: "The Lord opened her heart, and she was baptized." If the Lord hath opened thy heart to believe the gospel, thou mayest be baptized, but not else.

Eighth example. We have another case in Acts 18:8. Crispus the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing, believed and were baptized. Crispus believed, his house believed,—all depended on their believing, and then they were baptized. All the examples are cast in this mould.

Thus you have pattern and precept; if command or example be of any force, here's both. Beware lest you sin against such plain teaching. He who sins against both precept and example sins indeed.

(BAPTISM DISCOVERED PLAINLY AND FAITHFULLY, ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD, pp. 21-27, 1911 edition, corrected and somewhat altered by C. H. Spurgeon).

Editor's note:—Elder John Norcott appears to have succeeded Elder John Spilsbury as pastor of the church in Gravel Lane. His name is among those of the London pastors who in 1674 subscribed to a public document. He died on March 24, 1675. His funeral sermon was preached by Benjamin Keach in Gravel Lane, Wapping. Keach wrote the following epitaph of Bro. Norcott:

"A sweet and godly preacher doth lie here,  
Who did His master Jesus love so dear,  
And sinners' souls, that he his strength did spend,  
And did thereby, 'tis thought, hasten his end.  
He brought himself by preaching to the grave,  
The precious souls of sinner for to save.  
He lies here but asleep, he is not dead;  
To God he lives; to Christ his soul is fled;  
And e're a while must he awake again,  
And evermore with Christ in glory reign."

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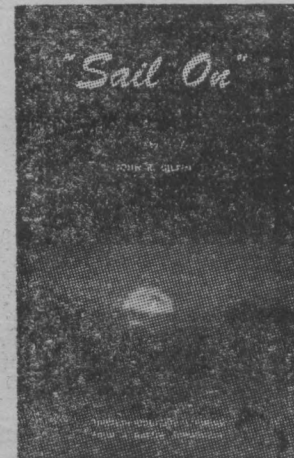
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