

We want to consider some more of the doctrines that have divided the Baptists through the years. Paul says in I Corinthians 1:10, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you." Up to 1969 the Lord's people who believed in sovereign grace and local church truth seemed to adhere to that admonition to a great extent. But now in 1979 it seems that a number of our brethren have either forgotten, or just ignore it. They no longer contend for the truths they once loved. The divisions that have come among us are really heart-rending. We cannot blame our Lord for it. He is not the author of confusion.

During these last ten short years some of our dear brethren have begun to argue what they call the "priesthood of the church." I have no desire to try to refute their argument simply because I know nothing about it. In all my many years of Bible study I have not found anything in the dear old Book about it. I have no desire to learn about it from some other book. I know our Lord carries on all of His work in this age through His churches. He does not have anything to do with the free-lance work we see all around us. He did not start it, and He will not bless it. It is of the world, worldly. But salvation is not in the church, it is in Jesus Christ. Believe it or not, there are moral sins in this old world today that have absolutely nothing to do with doctrinal sins. If one of our Lord's saints commits murder, or adultery, lies or steals, he is responsible to God for it whether the church he is a member of ever hears about it or not. If the

(Continued on page 3, columns 1, 2)

DON'T GET CONFUSED . . .

CHRISTIANS AND XMAS

DANIEL PARKS

St. John, Virgin Islands

No day like Christmas can be found in all the world. It is marked as a holiday, complete with the closing of stores, feasts, gift exchanges, special liturgies and other religious festivities, revelry, drunkenness, and paganism.

Religious observances are marked with religious plays depicting the birth of the Christ in Bethlehem, along with the visits of the shepherds and magi (usually unbiblically portrayed as one group of men) and the animals around which the scene took place, a stable. Many times presents are prepared to be taken to families that are needy, bands and singing groups go caroling through the neighborhoods, special sermons are preached with the so-called "Christmas Story" as the topic, and special Christmas hymns are sung.

Profane observances, parties, festivals, etc. cause this holiday to cause the biggest month of the year for the sale and use of alcoholic beverages, party favors, and the other things that go with such festivities. In these circles Christmas brings revelry, drunkenness, debauchery, and a host of other sins. Stores enjoy their most productive month during December, the Christmas month. Usually, the people within these two groups are one and the same.

Its popularity is not to be questioned—it is here, and seemingly here to stay. But there is one

question that needs to be answered: Is the Christian to observe it? In order to decide this issue, the background of Christmas must be analyzed. Ample information is available to the student, and some of that information will appear in this work. This work is by no means complete, but it is sufficient.

FACTS

The name, Christmas, is of Roman Catholic origin. It is made of two words, Christ's Mass.



DANIEL PARKS

The mass is a special service conducted by the Papists for the purpose of worshipping their gods, of which Christ is but one (Mariolatry and some select saints are also worshipped). The name has become to be so universally known that its form has been shortened to Christmas since the sixteenth century. Many folk today refer to it as simply Xmas, since in the Greek language the first letter in Christ is 'X', and many make reference to Christ in writing by that mark. Any child of God should revolt at the mere insinuation that he observe anything with a mass, especially the Christ Mass. The word does not appear in the Bible, since it is of such recent origin.

The date, December 25, has a direct tie-in to the idolatrous worship of the sun, and that date is universally known as the birthday of the sun. Prior to that day, the days are getting shorter and the nights longer. But, on December 25, the sun is born, and the days begin to get longer again. In Babylon and other lands where such worship existed, much prayer was given to the sun-god, and the birthday of the sun was a day of

(Continued on page 4, Col. 2)

The family altar has altered many a family.

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. 50 ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, DECEMBER 22, 1979 WHOLE NUMBER 2254

NECESSITY OF VIRGIN BIRTH

I. R. DEAN

Toronto, Canada

Uios Sperma

The Virgin Birth of Christ was necessary, for three reasons; first, to fulfill prophecy; second, to give Him a title to the throne of David; and third, that He might be a Saviour.

1. TO FULFILL PROPHECY.

Look at the two Greek words above. The word at the left is pronounced "whyos" and is translated "son." The word at the right is translated "seed." The whole story of Christ's meeting all the demands of prophecy and escaping all the bars of prophecy and thus securing an unmistakable title to the throne of David is told in the discriminating use of these two words. It would be absolutely impossible for Him to claim a title to that throne if He had not been born of a virgin. Now Uios (son) may express natural, blood relationship, and is often used in this sense. But it may express merely legal relationship, when there is no kinship by blood at all. This usage is common in all languages. Saul called David "my son" because David was married to Saul's daughter (I Sam. 24:16). One may be a legal son, or son-in-law, without being a real son by blood.

On the other hand, Sperma (seed) always expresses blood relationship, and never merely legal relationship.

Many homes in this land have sons that are in no wise related by

blood to their foster parents.

This word Sperma (seed) is used in a prophecy about Christ. He has the unique distinction of being the only person born in the human race who was "the seed of a woman."

It is evident that if Christ were the seed of David and at the same time born of a virgin, He must have gotten this relationship through His mother, since He had no human father. This difficulty is met in the very promise about the Messiah.

"The Lord God said unto the serpent, And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; It shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Gen. 3:15).

This prophecy has always been interpreted to refer to Christ, who would in the end overcome Satan and set up His Kingdom on this earth.

If it were not for this prophecy it would be impossible for us to claim that Christ was the seed of David, and at the same time born of a virgin, without a human father. But, according to his promise, there was to be one unique person that was to be the seed of a woman. This He could not be if He were the natural seed of Joseph. He would then be the seed of a man.

Christ was the only person ever born that could fulfill this prophecy. The virgin Mary was a direct descendant by blood from David;

therefore to be the seed of this woman was to be the seed of David.

This harmonizes with the great prophecy of Isaiah.

"Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

This prophecy, according to Matthew was fulfilled at the birth (Continued on page 2, column 3)

XMAS
WILLARD WILLIS
Monroe, Ohio

An article appearing in the Middletown (Ohio) Journal under the date of December 17, 1978, read, in part, as follows:

"When it comes to fighting, shooting and stabbing, Christmas is anything but a silent night. In fact, the entire month of Decem-



WILLARD WILLIS

ber is the worst in terms of violent crimes."

"Oh tidings of comfort and joy . . ."

"More people are murdered in the month of December than any other month, according to the FBI. And not only are more people killed, but the majority of them are killed by the family and friends they spend the holidays with."

"Oh there's no place like home for the holidays. . ."

"Of the 821 murders committed in Ohio last year (1977), nearly 500 were committed by friends or relatives of the victim, according to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation."

"Faithful friends who are

(Continued on page 7, column 2)

IS XMAS A HOLY DAY OR HEATHEN DAY?

DONALD A. SCHUNCK

Jonesboro, Georgia

The facts contained in this article may be a surprise to many Christians. This subject remains, however, a serious one to many serious Christians, regardless of how many attempts are made each year to hide the truth about Christmas. Many true Christians have never heard the real story of Christmas and perhaps are observing this Roman High Holy Day in ignorance, not seeing the idol worship and heathenism involved therein.

We pray that God might be pleased to use this article to show some of His people how degrading to the Lord Jesus Christ and how utterly close to blasphemy this commandment and tradition of man really is. This is by no means an exhaustive study of this subject, but only the bare facts, scripturally presented. I will now attempt to present seven reasons for not letting apostate Christendom influence you to practice idol-worship in your home in the future. Our Lord knows there will be no such observance in Heaven!

1. Dec. 25th Not Christ's Birthday.

There is no doubt that December 25th cannot be the real birthday of Jesus Christ. In fact most honest historians and theologians admit that Christ was not born in December, or in the winter at all. "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night" (Luke 2:8). The custom of the shepherds in the area our Lord was born was to take the sheep in from the field early in November. There were no shepherds tending their flocks by night in late De-

cember, simply because of the cold weather and rain that is present then. It is strange to take note that when His "birthday" (?) falls on Sunday, many churches (?) observe it by closing their doors in direct disobedience to Hebrews 10:25.

2. Not Commanded To Observe His Birthday.

We, as Christians, are commanded directly or by New Testament example to do many things in obedience to God. Some of these being — baptism, observing the Lord's Supper, assembling as a church, loving one another fervently, etc., but one will search in vain for even a hint of example, much less command, to celebrate the birthdate of our Saviour's incarnation. In fact, the real birthdate was hidden by God, as there

(Continued on page 5, column 2)

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Milburn Cockrell

WISE MEN FROM THE EAST

Very shortly the religious world will be twisting and turning. Matthew's account of the visit of the Magi. To prevent our being confused by their misrepresentations, it behooves us to acquaint ourselves anew with the facts actually disclosed in the book of Matthew.

WHEN DID THEY COME?

When Christ was born in Bethlehem of Judea, a star appeared to the wise men of the East, announcing Christ's birth (Matt. 2:2). The star did not lead them to Jerusalem. There is nothing in the

Scriptures to indicate that these men went immediately, or soon, to seek the holy infant Jesus.

Most Christians believe that the visit of the wise men occurred the same day Christ was born, but this cannot be proven from the Scriptures. Luke tells us that after the birth and circumcision of the Holy Child, "when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth" (Luke 2:39). From Matthew we see that immediately after the vis-

it of the Magi, "when they had departed," Joseph was warned by an angel to take the child and his mother and flee into Egypt (Matt. 2:13). The wise men visited Christ at his home in Nazareth when he was about two years old. Matthew tells us: "Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under according

(Continued on page 2, column 2)

The Baptist Examiner

THE BAPTIST PAPER FOR
THE BAPTIST PEOPLE

MILBURN COCKRELL --- Editor
Editorial Department, located in
ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, where
all subscriptions and 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
When you subscribe for others or
secure subscriptions each \$3.00
BUNDLES: 10 to 50 copies to one address
\$20.00 for each 10 yearly; 60 to 100
copies to one address \$15.00 for each
10 yearly.

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Entered as second class matter March
4, 1978, in the post office at Ashland,
Kentucky, under the Act of March 3,
1879.

BRIEF NOTES

The First Baptist Church, 104
Washington St., Alexandria, Ky.,
and Pastor Carl Morton will host
a New Year's Bible Conference
Dec. 31 to Jan. 1. On Monday the
31st the church will serve sup-
per at 5:00 p.m. while the services
will commence at 7:00 p.m. Ser-
vices will start at 10:00 a.m. Tues-
day morning and continue through
Tuesday night.

Speakers on the program are as
follows: Elders Bill Derossset, Sid-
ney Fisher, Jerry Gumm, Al
Gormley, Wayne Hart, Berlin
Hisel, Bob Jones, George Lock,
Bill Mitchell, H. H. Overbey and
the editor. The church and pastor
invite all within driving distance
to attend this conference.

Any church wishing to receive
the monthly newsletter from Mis-
sionary Daniel E. Parks should
send their requests to him at 6B
Adrian Estate, St. John USVI
00830.

The Living Stone Baptist Church
near Barboursville, W. Va., is
without a pastor. Any interested
elders should contact Elder Steve
Cornett by calling (304) 736-9292 or
Bro. Duncle (304) 736-6008.

Bro. E. G. Cook, of Birming-
ham, Ala., one of the regular for-
um writers, is ill at this time
and unable to answer forum ques-
tions. Please remember him to
the Lord in prayer.

The Blue John Missionary Bap-
tist Church near Tateville, Ky.,
has called Elder Wendell P. Fur-
long as their pastor, and he has
accepted the call.

The Memorial Heights Baptist
Church at Perry, Georgia and
Pastor Gordon Buchanan will host
a Bible Conference December 28-
30. Speakers on program are as
follows: Elders James Hobbs,
Gerald Price, David West and
Jimmie Davis. The ladies will
serve two meals (noon and eve-
ning) on Saturday and Sunday for
all who attend. The church ex-
tends an invitation to all within

driving distance to come and
have fellowship with them. Ser-
vices begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday
and Saturday and 10:00 a.m. and
6:00 p.m. on Sunday. For more
information call Elder Buchanan
at 912-987-5486.

Wise Men From East

(Continued from page one)
to the time which he had diligent-
ly enquired of the wise men"
(Matt. 2:16).

Thus it seems the wise men had
seen the star two years before
they arrived in Jerusalem.

All details in the Scriptures lend
weight to this. The shepherds in
Luke found the Saviour as "a babe
wrapped in swaddling clothes"
(Luke 2:12). The Magi worshipped
him as a "young child with Mary
his mother" (Matt. 2:11). The
shepherds found him lying in a
manger; the wise men found him
in a house.

Our King James Version is re-
sponsible for some of the present
confusion in this connection. Mat-
thew 2:11 reads: "Now when Jesus
was born in Bethlehem of Judea
in the days of Herod the king, behold
there came wise men from the
East to Jerusalem."

But this is not a correct trans-
lation of the Greek text. Other
versions prove this. "And Jesus
having been born in Bethlehem of
Judea . . ." (AMERICAN BIBLE
UNION). "Now after the birth of
Jesus . . ." (WEYMOUTH). "After
the birth of Jesus . . ." (TWIN-
TIETH CENTURY).

HOW MANY WISE MEN?

The Bible does not say that
there were three wise men. We
know from the biblical record
there were at least two, for Mat-
thew says "wise men." There may
have been three or a thousand.
To assume there were three be-
cause of the threefold gift is en-
tirely baseless. Doubtless there
were more than three, or at least
they were with an entourage of
scores or hundreds, for it was un-
safe for a small group to travel a
long distance over desert wastes
which were infested with bandits.
The wealth of these men as indi-
cated in their gifts to Christ sug-
gest that they were able to hire
a large caravan to travel with
them for protection.

Others have assumed they were
kings from some Old Testament
texts (Ps. 68:30, 32; 72:10; Isa. 49:
7; 5:3). The Scriptures do not say
that they were kings in spite of
what tradition may say. If the Old
Testament texts aforementioned
referred to the Magi, Matthew
would have told us by quoting and
so stating. His silence is proof
these texts had no reference to
the wise men from the East.

WHERE WERE THEY FROM?

The indefinite expression, "from
the East," indicates that the writ-
er knew only that they came from
a country east of Palestine. But
whether from Persia, Arabia or
Mesopotamia is uncertain. The
frankincense and myrrh were
found chiefly in Arabia, if their
gifts to Christ mean anything.

WHO WERE THEY?

Matthew tells us they were
"wise men" and we can see from
their knowledge of Christ's king-
ship that they were wise men in-
deed, yea, wiser than the priests
and elders in Jerusalem who did
not know that a king had been
born. However "wise men" is
from the original word "majoi"
from which comes our word
"magician." While magician now
has a bad meaning to us today, it
did not to Matthew when he wrote.
Matthew meant by the word that
they were philosophers, priests or
astronomers. They were the learn-
ed class who cultivated astrology
and kindred sciences.

Of the Magi Dr. Schaff remarks:
"The Saviour was not without a
witness among the heathen. Wise
men from the East—i.e., Persian
Magi, of the Zend region in which
the idea of a Zoziosh, or redeem-
er, was clearly known—guided
miraculously by a star or meteor
created for the purpose, came and

sought out the Saviour to pay him
homage" (SMITH BIBLE DIC-
TIONARY, Vol. II, pp. 1349, Hack-
ett's ed.)

These Magi were held in high
esteem by the Persian court. They
were advisers to the kings and
often followed the camps in wars
to give counsel.

WHAT BROUGHT THEM?

The Magi arrived in Jerusalem
inquiring, "Where is he that is
born King of the Jews? for we
have seen his star in the East, and
are come to worship him."

How did they know about the
birth of Christ by the appear-
ance of a star? Probably by the
prophecy of Balaam which reads:
"There shall come a Star out of
Jacob and a Scepter shall rise out
of Israel" (Num. 24:17). Concern-
ing Balaam's prophecy the Jewish

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

November, 1979

Balance Nov. 1, 1979 \$ 342.47
Receipts 7,399.66

Total \$7,742.13

EXPENDITURES:

Labor \$2,490.50
Printing 4,125.00
Postage 1,071.31
Supplies 399.13
FICA - Labor 122.88

Total Expenditures \$8,208.82
Def. Bal., Nov. 30, 1979 \$ -466.69

rabbis wrote in their Talmud:
"When the Messiah shall be re-
vealed there shall rise up in the
East a star flaming with six col-
ors" (R. Frey, Messiah, p. 137).
Even the Jews today believe a
star will appear as a sign of the
Messiah's advent.

WHY DID THEY COME?

The Magi came to see the King
of the Jews and to worship him.
The people of the East never ap-
proached the presence of kings
without presents in their hands.
These men gave Christ gifts be-
cause he was the King of the
Jews. They did not exchange or
trade gifts among themselves.
They gave Christ gifts. They did
not do this on Christ's birthday as
I have already shown. There is no
suggestion here for the exchang-
ing of gifts among one another at
Christmas time.

The gold which the wise men
gave to Christ enabled his par-
ents to make the flight to Egypt.
Joseph and Mary were poor and
probably without this gold they
could not have gone to Egypt to
escape from Herod.

The Virgin Birth . . .

(Continued from page one)
of Jesus Christ, Matthew 1:22. He
is Immanuel, which means God
with us. So both His Deity and
humanity are declared in this
prophecy.

He must be born of a virgin,
then, to fulfill these two great
prophecies. But it is equally neces-
sary for Him to be born of a vir-
gin to escape the bar raised by
Jeremiah.

II. HE MUST BE BORN OF A VIRGIN THAT HE MAY BE EN- TITLED TO THE THRONE OF DAVID.

Against Jeconiah (the last King
in the royal succession that ever
sat on the Throne of David), Jer-
emiah pronounced these words:

"Is this man Coniah a despised,
broken idol? Is he a vessel where-
in is no pleasure? Wherefore are
they cast out, he and his seed, and
are cast into a land which they
know not? O earth, earth, earth,
hear the word of the Lord. Thus
saith the Lord, Write ye this man
childless, a man that shall not
prosper in his days; for no man
of his seed shall prosper, sitting
upon the throne of David, and rul-
ing any more in Judah" (Jer. 22:
28-30).

This does not mean that Jecon-
iah would not have children, for
we are distinctly told that he did
have children (1 Chron. 3:17; Matt.
1:2). But it means that none of his

A WORD ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Calvary Baptist Church of Ashland, Ky., enjoyed one of the best
Bible Conference's in years. The speakers delivered messages which
were timely and Bible-centered. The fellowship among the brethren
was sweet. Many new faces were seen for the first time. Our sanctuary
was filled on Thursday until we had to bring in chairs to seat
the people. Friday experienced a slight drop in attendance, but our
building was almost filled again.

The Lord willing, we plan to have another conference next year
at the same time. We ask our brethren to make a note of this on
their calendars for 1980.



Above is the likeness of two different views of the crowds who
attended our Thanksgiving Conference. Our church was overjoyed
to have so many of our friends to visit with us to hear the Word of God
preached and to share some physical food with us. Thanks to all who
came in these days of high gasoline and other inflationary prices.

descendants would ever sit on the throne of David. Jeremiah's prophecy.

Now Matthew's genealogy shows
that the title to the throne of Da-
vid must descend through this
very line of Jeconiah and no other.
Christ, then, must establish His
legal right through this line, or He
could have no right to that throne.
He must be the Uios (son) of
David through this male line of
succession, but He must not be the
Sperma (seed) of Jeconiah. Re-
member the title to the throne of
David always descends through
the father, not the mother.

The genealogy was preserved
with the greatest care, although
the legal heirs were barred by

Notice the peculiar wording
(Continued on page 3, column 1)

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH 1979 THANKSGIVING BIBLE CONFERENCE ON TAPES

"Special Singing"	Complete
"What Christ Has Done For Man"	Wayne Morris
"The Genesis Account of Creation"	Willard Pyle
"The Two Adams"	Jimmie Davis
"Repentance"	T. L. Griffin
"Faith"	Leroy Parks
"Justification"	J. C. Settlement
"Sanctification"	Ronnie Wolfe
"The Worth Of A Baptist Church"	Ray Brown
"Why I Am A Baptist"	J. M. Holliday
"Observations During My Ministry"	Roscoe Brown
"The Curse Of Liberalism"	E. D. Strickland
"The Curse Of Immorality"	Harold Harvey
"The Curse Of Hardshellism"	Berlin Hisel
"The Curse Of The Tongue Movement"	Gordon Buchanan
"The Curse Of Arminianism"	Sam Wilson
"The Curse Of The Universal Church"	Gerald Price
"The Curse Of The Priesthood Of The Church"	Oscar Minn
"Eternal Life"	Robert Patton
"Eternal Punishment"	Jacob Bagnall
"The Call Of Abraham"	David O'Neil
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Set of Cassette tapes	\$20.00
Set of tapes with album	\$23.00
Postage Paid.	Any two sermons \$ 2.00

The Lord's Church

(Continued from Page One)

church learns of his sins, it is her responsibility to discipline him. But even in that case, it is God dealing with His child through His church. We should not think for one fleeting moment that the church has replaced God in the matter of salvation, or in the matter of His chastening His saints.

Another doctrine that has played havoc with our fellowship is what is called the post-trib rapture of the saints. I have heard among Baptists all of my life. I was reared in a Baptist home. During my younger days there was no place to go in order to be with other young people except to a church. Since the Baptist church that my parents were members of met only one Saturday and Sunday each month, I went to some other church on the other Sundays in the month, but I never had so much as a thought of ever joining any other kind of church. Though I have always been closely associated with Baptists, still I was over 70 years of age before I ever heard this doctrine argued by anyone. In west Alabama where I was reared the only book the Baptist preachers had to get their doctrines from was the Bible. I really have a hard time believing that anyone ever came to believe in the priesthood of the church, or in the post-trib rapture of the saints from a study of the Bible. Those old country Baptist preachers did not know what post-trib, or priesthood of the church meant. But they did believe that our Lord was coming back to this old world for His saints, and when the great tribulation time would come upon the world, they did not call it pre-trib, but that is what they believed. At the time came when the preachers began to go to the seminaries to learn what to preach. Since those seminaries were not under the authority of one of our Lord's churches, which is the pillar and ground of the truth, they began to learn just about everything but the truth of God's Word. As a result of all that, the post-trib and other far-out doctrines came on the scene. For that reason, I had rather have a pastor who had graduated from a pea patch rather than one who had graduated from a seminary.

Since the pre-trib rapture of the saints is what I find in my Bible, I want to contend for it so long as I live. For the benefit of those who may not know just what is meant by pre-trib rapture let me say, it simply means that our Lord will come for His people before the great tribulation. I want to give a few proofs that I find in my Bible for pre-trib. So far as I am able to know George Ladd did not write any of the Bible. In the first place, the Bible makes it very clear that the purpose of the great tribulation is to purge the Jews. When Pilate had washed his hands and said, "I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it" the Jews said in Matthew 2:25, "His blood be on us, and on our children." The blood of Christ has been on the Jews ever since that day, but not to cover their sins. They have suffered so much through the centuries, but they have not seen anything yet to compare with what awaits them during the great tribulation. They were begging for trouble, and that is what they have been getting, and it is what they will really get during the great tribulation time. In Jeremiah 30:7 we are told that the tribulation is "even the time of Jacob's trouble." Jacob was the father of the twelve sons who were the heads of the twelve tribes of Israel. God changed Jacob's name from Jacob to Israel in Genesis 32:28. That is why his off-spring are called the children of Israel. So the time of Jacob's trouble simply means the Jews' trouble. I know of no Scripture that even intimates that the church will have to suffer in the tribulation time. One Brother told me that the church must suffer during that time in order for them to reign with Christ. II Timothy 2:12 does say that "If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him." But if we are true to God's Word we will suffer before the tribulation. Paul said in II Corinthians 12:10, "I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake." And, believe it or not, Paul did that long before the tribulation time. All it takes in any age

(Continued on Page 6, Columns 4 and 5)

The Virgin Birth . . .

(Continued from Page Two)

Matthew 1:16: "Jacob begat Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ." Then follows the explanation how Jesus was begotten of the Holy Ghost before the marriage of His mother, and how His mother was married by divine direction before His birth. This made Him the Uios (son) of Joseph, without being the Sperma (seed) of Joseph, and therefore the seed of Jeconiah. Joseph was the only living heir to the throne of David, when Christ was born. There are never two proper heirs to the throne at the same time. Luke says of Joseph, "He was of the house and lineage of David" (Luke 2:4). This means that Joseph was heir to the throne, not

withstanding he was barred from reigning by Jeremiah's prophecy.

It was only by Christ being born of a virgin that He would get over the bar set up by Jeremiah.

If He were the natural seed of Joseph, He could not be the seed of a woman, Gen. 3:15. If He were the natural seed of Joseph, He would not have been born of a virgin, according to the promise of Isaiah 7:14. If He were the seed of Joseph, He would then also be the seed of Jeconiah and could not rule in Judah, sitting on the throne of David. Admit His virgin birth and everything is simple. Deny His virgin birth and all is confusion and contradiction.

III. THE PROBLEM OF THE TWO GENEALOGIES.

In perfect harmony with this plan Matthew begins with these words:

For December 30, 1979

Amos 7:10-17

Intro.: This is a portion of scripture that every God-called preacher should take note of, in view of the fact it reveals a common attitude and a common reaction to a faithful declaration of the Word of God.

VERSE 10

The preaching of the Word of God does one of two things: it either convicts and converts under the operation of the Holy Spirit, or it cuts and brings forth the wickedness in the heart of the unbeliever (Acts 9:5, 6; 2:37; I Thess. 1:5; Acts 5:33; Eph. 2:2).

"Amaziah the priest of Bethel." When men or a nation departs from God in disobeying His Word, there will arise idol worship and false institutions and false preachers. The golden calves of Bethel and the ungodly priests are an example of this. This is popular with the world because of the blindness of their hearts. These false prophets and institutions are very zealous in their effort to put down all opposition, either by corrupting them, conquering them, or by getting them to compromise

"The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son (Uios) of David, the son (Uios) of Abraham."

Is it not strange that Matthew never let his pen slip once and called Him the seed (Sperma) of David or Abraham, but always the son (Uios) of David and Abraham?

Matthew gives the genealogy of Joseph. He says, "Jacob begat Joseph." He could have only one father that begat him. Luke says, "Joseph was the son of Heli" (Luke 3:23). But this may mean, and certainly does mean here, that he was only the son-in-law. Since he was married to Mary he had a father-in-law, i.e., Mary's father, whose name was Heli.

This solves the problem of these two genealogies. Luke establishes His descent from David through Nathan which is not the line of succession at all. But still this makes Him the seed of David in His humanity as was promised, Psalm 89:36. In Matthew, the wise men ask the question, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" (Matt. 2:2). Christ was the only person that was ever born a King. Joseph was still living when He was born, but, as we have seen, he could not occupy the throne.

But Christ had every right and no bar, so He was born a king. Nathanael was right when he said, "Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel" (John 1:49).

Be assured that He could not be the King of Israel if He were not the Son of God, born of a virgin. When Pilate asked Him, "Art thou the King of the Jews?" (Luke 23:3), He answered, "Thou sayest it."

Since Luke gives His genealogy from Mary declaring His humanity, we would expect His introduction to be different, and so it is.

"And lo, the angel said unto them, 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, 11).

In Matthew, He is pre-eminently the Son of David, and King of the Jews, and His ministry is to that people. Matthew calls Him "the Son of David" eight times and it is as Son of David that He says, "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the House of Israel" (Matt. 15:24). He must first offer Himself to God's chosen people, and this He does in person and

(Continued on page 5, column 1)

The Baptist Examiner

BIBLE STUDY LESSON

By WILLARD PYLE

Pastor — First Baptist Church of Naples Park, Florida



(Acts 20:29, 30; Neh. 4:8; 6:1-7).

"Sent to Jeroboam king of Israel." The golden calves were the product of an ungodly king, so anyone who opposed the state religion was a marked man (Dan. 3:13-19).

"Saying, Amos hath conspired against thee." This is the same tactic used against the Lord Jesus Christ, and also Paul (Matt. 2:13; Acts 21:28).

"In the midst of the house of Israel." What a statement in revealing the courage of the prophet. He stood publicly in opposition to the corruption in the nation. Consider Acts 5:20; 4:18-20, 29-31; Matt. 14:4; Acts 17:22, 23.

"The land is not able to bear all his words." Here is one Old Testament parallel to II Timothy 4:3.

VERSE 11

"For thus Amos saith." What a sad misrepresentation, for Amos was only the spokesman to give forth the Words of God (Jer. 1:6-9; Ezek. 3:1-4).

"Jeroboam shall die by the sword." Again, a perversion of what really was said (Verse 9). This has always been a tactic of the Devil (Gen. 3:1,4). Men are prone to twist the scriptures to their own destruction (II Pet. 3:16).

"And Israel shall surely be led away captive out of their own land." Amaziah failed to say that Amos had interceded on the part of Israel or that repentance would be of great benefit.

VERSE 12

"Also Amaziah said unto Amos, O thou seer." He attempts to ridicule Amos and point out the fact that he basically stands alone. Therefore he must have misunderstood God's message. What Amaziah didn't know was that "God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty" (I Cor. 1:27-28).

"Go, flee thee away into the land of Judah." He assures Amos that there is still time to retreat to an easier field of service. In other words, you don't have to give up preaching, but don't do it here.

"And there eat bread, and prophesy there." He holds out comfort and ease and monetary gain. He judges Amos by his knowledge of his co-horts (Ezek. 13:19).

VERSE 13

"But prophesy not again any

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more at Bethel." This compares with Acts 5:40. Also, it might be well to remember that God in judgment does remove His preachers and His churches. This always results in further judgment.

"For it is the king's chapel, and it is the king's court." He reminds Amos again that he is treading on dangerous ground because it has been set apart by the king. How pathetic he failed to give honor to the King of kings, Who is the possessor of Heaven and earth.

VERSE 14

"Then answered Amos." God's prophet will not be silenced by friend or foe. Amos was ready to give an answer (I Peter 3:15). He was ready to preach (Rom. 1:15). He was ready to lay down his life (Acts 20:24).

"And said to Amaziah." He is pointed and precise in his answer. He does not compromise nor cringe.

"I was no prophet." This is no self-appointed position I hold (Gal. 1:15). He was a chosen vessel (Acts 9:15). This can be said by very few in this age of modernism where most preachers are following a mere profession and not a divine calling.

"Neither was I a prophet's son." I am not following the wishes of my father, although this would not be wrong if God was in it.

"But I was a herdsman, and a gatherer of sycamore fruit." Therefore I recognize my smallness and unworthiness to be a prophet, as viewed by man.

VERSE 15

"And the Lord took me." What a blessed thought! He, like Paul, was made a minister (Eph. 3:7).

"As I followed the flock." In God's providence, Amos was prepared for the work God had ordained him unto. Consider David (II Sam. 7:8).

"And the Lord said unto me, Go." You are too late with your "go" (Verse 12) for God hath sent me (Mark 16:15; Acts 8:26).

"Prophesy unto My people." His, by choice and by redemption.

"Israel." I am here because I was sent of God, I would be in disobedience if I went back to Judah unless God directs me.

VERSE 16

"Now therefore hear thou the word of the Lord." Amos, instead of being discouraged by the attack of Amaziah, was moved to greater faithfulness.

"Thou sayest, Prophesy not against Israel, and drop not thy word against the house of Isaac." You have set yourselves against the direct commandment of God and this in order to feather your own nest.

VERSE 17

"Therefore thus saith the Lord." Here is God's message to you, or concerning you in view of your opposition.

"Thy wife shall be an harlot in the city, and thy sons and thy daughters shall fall by the sword, and thy land shall be divided by line; and thou shalt die in a polluted land: and Israel shall surely go into captivity forth of his land." Notice the "shalls" of God's pronouncement of judgment. Each one is a solemn reminder it is futile to stand in opposition to God.

Conclusion: The battle of Amos against Amaziah still is raging. On which side are you?

(EDITOR'S NOTE:—If you would like to write to Bro. Pyle expressing your appreciation for the lessons or ask him questions about his exposition of the Scripture his address is Rt. 22, Box 1198, Fort Myers Fla. 33908.)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

DECEMBER 22, 1979

PAGE THREE

The Baptist Examiner Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

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

Does I Corinthians 3:3 teach that a born-again can be a carnal Christian, etc.?

JAMES HOBBS
Rt. 2, Box 182
McDermott, Ohio

PASTOR
Kings Addition
Baptist Church
South Shore, Ky.



I Corinthians 3:3 is very clear. I do not see that there can be any doubt about it. Yes, there can be carnal saved people. Obviously, these people in chapter 3 were members of the church at Corinth and Paul called them brethren. Ephesians 4:14 speaks of people being children and carried about by every wind of doctrine. Hebrews 5:13 speaks clearly on the subject. "For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe."

Apparently, your concern is about perseverance. Remember, perseverance is not perfection. To persevere means that we will be victorious. There may be a period of time when we fail but in the end we will be victorious. David and Peter are both perfect examples of this.

We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ. At that time we will be judged and rewarded. Some will be rewarded, some will have no rewards. "If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." (I Corinthians 3:15).

Need I remind you that a person may be carnal, but they do not need to remain so. We need to teach them concerning our responsibilities.

OSCAR MINK
219 North Street
Crestline, Ohio
44827

Pastor
Mansfield
Missionary
Baptist Church
Mansfield, Ohio
44906



Yes, I Corinthians 3:14 teaches that a born-again member of the Lord's church may at times be carnal. However, habitual carnality is a denial of the Lordship of Christ, and the negation of the profession of salvation, for carnality is the very opposite of the true Christian character. The life of the true Baptist will be that of habitual devotion to the principles of righteousness set forth in the N.T. His old nature will on occasion assert itself, and cause him to stumble. A sheep may fall in a mud-hole, but it will not long abide therein, and so it is, with the Christian whose general tenor of life is that of Bible obedience. He will on occasion fall victim to his flesh,

but will not adopt carnality as a rule or code of conduct for his life.

They that are of the flesh may profess to be Christians, and assume for a time outwardly the character of a Christian, but the trials of time will manifest their superficiality, and they will return to wallowing in the mire of this world. On the other hand, a true Christian will bemoan the fact of his liability to sin, and will lament and repent of his actual sin. Therefore, the Christian's sporadic deviation from the righteous course of his life is not indicative of a fallen character, or of a general drift into carnality.

The person who professes to be a Christian, and is not as a rule subject to the Lordship of Christ, is a false professor. He is a liar. There is no basis in Scripture for the contention of habitual carnality of a Christian, they which contend for such a theory always refer to isolated cases in the lives of godly people, such as the sin of David, Samson, Abraham's subterfuge, Peter's denial of Christ, etc. Let us not excuse these sins, not the sins of our own lives, but let us highlight the fact that these men deeply regretted and repented of these temporary digressions from the God-honoring course of their lives.

A goat is a goat, a dog is a dog, a hog is a hog, and cosmetic surgery can never alter that fact, their nature remains the same no matter if they are made to look like a sheep. In due season their true nature will manifest itself, their mock appearance will be laid aside, and their stench will become so obnoxious to the true church that excusive discipline must be invoked to preserve the church.

Christians And Xmas

Continued from page one
joy, laughter, and reveling. Some of the gods worshipped on this day were Mithra, Osiris, Horus, Hercules, Bacchus, Adonis, Jupiter, and Tammuz of Babylon. In Rome, the day was known as Saturnalia, 'the feast of Saturn', and was celebrated much like the modern Christmas with much ungodliness.

The reason for the date, December 25, is because of the emergence of papalism with the other religions of this world. As papalism began to grow, it acquired riches, armies, lands, worldly honor, and strength. With these it began to expand its borders into the lands of pagans. Many of these pagans were quite unwilling to give up the worshipping of their gods, but since the papists demanded that they must, either annihilation of the conquered or a good compromise, satisfactory to

both parties was needed. That compromise was found by simply adopting the parts of the pagan worship the pagans refused to abandon, and incorporating them into the papal system.

Since December 25 was worshipped as the birthday of the sun-god (and is not Christ the 'light of the world'), that day was set apart as the Christ Mass, the birth of Jesus. In this way, both pagan and papist could worship together, and though both were directing their adoration to the same image, each had a different god in mind. This was done by Pope Liberius in 354. All people celebrating Christmas celebrate on this day with but very few exceptions, among them the Armenians, who still observe January 6 (known as the Epiphany, or, the day of the visit by the magi according to Westerners, or the day of Christ's baptism according to Easterners). Christmas used to be celebrated to some extent on this day, and many folk still refer to it as "Little Christmas."

Was Christ born on December 25? The odds are against it, but as surely as it cannot be proven that He was, it cannot be proven that He was not. There are reasons that seem to show that He was not, and none to show that He was. Among those that show He could not have been born on this day is the fact that there were shepherds in the fields watching their flocks on this night, and this was a most unlikely occurrence for December 25. John Gill in his commentary makes the following note on Luke 2:8, "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night":

"There are two sorts of cattle with the Jews . . . there are the cattle of the house that lie in the city; the cattle of the wilderness are they that lie in the pastures. On which one of the commentators (Maimonides, in MISN, BETZA, cap. 5, sect. 7), observes, 'These lie in the pastures which are in the villages, all the days of the cold and heat, and do not go into the cities until the rains descend.' The first rain falls in the month Marchesvan, which answers to the latter part of our October and the former part of November . . . From which it appears that Christ must be born before the middle of October, since the first rain was not yet come."

It also stands to reason that the Romans would not schedule a tax collection during the roughest part of the year, for the men were making trips across the country and back to their hometowns. If any should wonder as to the severity of the weather in the Judean winter, let him remember that Jesus Christ said when speaking of the travail of the latter days, "But pray yet that your flight be not in the winter" (Matthew 24:20), for winter is quite severe.

Furthermore, the apostolic churches did not celebrate it, for Chrysostom (Monitum in Rom. de Natal. Christi), writing in Antioch about A.D. 380, says: "It is not yet ten years since this day was made known to us."

Can the date be ascertained? No, but some claim that they can pinpoint the time of the year (see Ralph Woodrow's BABYLON MYSTERY RELIGION, pp. 161-162). It was more than likely in the fall of the year, since taxes were usually collected after the harvests and since Jerusalem was so crowded at the time of His birth, the Feast of Tabernacles

New Guinea Photo Story

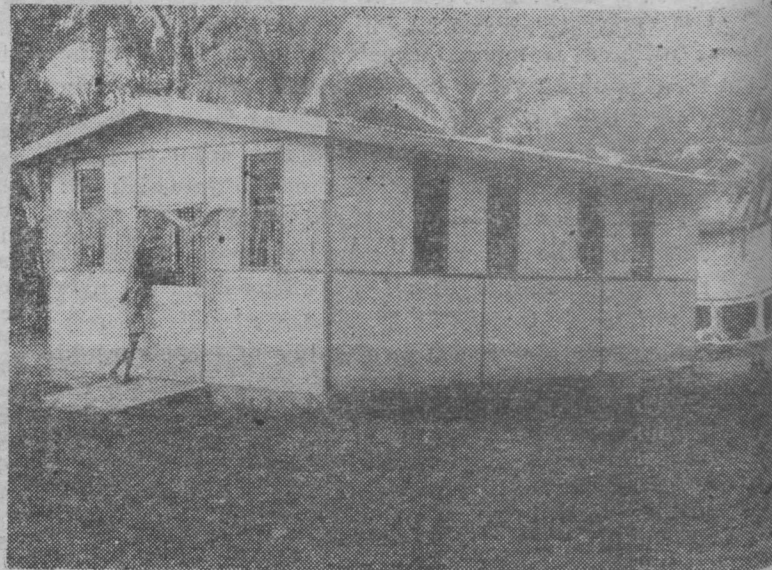
NOTE: The pictures that we have for you in this issue are a continuation of the trip that we made to Bougainville in April of this year.



(1) In this picture is David Potongu, and his family. David is the brother of Elder Uming's wife, and was one of the charter members of the church where he is the treasurer. I met David the first time I went to visit Brother Uming on Bougainville. He is a staunch Baptist, faithful to all the services and has a great base voice for singing.



(2) In this picture is Brother Andrew Taralu, and his family are also members of the church that Elder Uming pastors. This brother sat under my ministry, as well as that of Brother Uming's, for several years before he was saved and became a member of the church. Even while he was lost he tithed and never missed a service. At the end of the last service, in which I had been preaching there for a week, this brother came forward professing Christ as his Saviour.



(3) This is the new church building of the New Canaan Baptist Church which Brother Uming pastors. While there, although the building lacked a few details of being completed, we held the first service in it and had a church dedication service. Brother Uming did most of the work on the building. For several years they struggled trying to raise enough money to buy the materials. Brother Uming put all of his salary back into the building fund, plus whatever he or the others could spare above their living, until they finally got the materials and paid cash for them all. Beloved, this is evidence of the self-supporting work that we have tried to build here in these islands. Not a cent of American mission money was spent to help build this church building.

was probably taking place. This would explain why Mary went with Joseph, since only the men were compelled to go to the taxings. But, no reliable evidence points to His birth as late as Dec. 25. Therefore, the evidence points to these facts: the date is pagan origin, the papists incorporated it into their religion, and most Christians go along with the idea.

The Christmas tree, another pagan God, is also a part of many Christian's Christmas ritual, even though God's Word expressly forbids it. "Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They (the tree gods—ed.) are upright as the palm tree, but speak not; they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good" (Jer. 10:2-5).

The worship of tree gods is common to many lands. It is said that Adonis, the Sun-god, had a mother that became a tree and while in (Continued on page 6, column 1)

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

DECEMBER 22, 1979

PAGE FOUR

The Virgin Birth . . .

(Continued from page three)
through His disciples (Matt. 10:5, 6).

In Luke, He is the Seed of David, born of the Virgin Mary, and therefore a Saviour to all people. This is the line of Paul's ministry. After His complete reception by the nation of Israel, Paul is called to proclaim the grace of God without distinction to sinners, whether Jews or Gentiles (Rom. 3:22; Gal. 1:11). Paul never speaks of Christ as the Son of David because he is not presenting Him as the King; but refers to Him as the Seed of David, because he is proclaiming Him as the Saviour (Rom. 1:3; II Tim. 2:8).

But Paul also again and again proclaims the Deity of Christ and preaches the necessity of His virgin birth. Strange that anyone would contend that Paul never taught the virgin birth, when his whole plan of redemption requires it and he implies it everywhere.

IV. THE LAST ADAM

According to Paul's gospel, all mankind sinned in Adam (Rom. 5:13; I Cor. 15:22). Adam was the federal head of the race and when he fell the whole race fell with him. Adam was also the natural head of the race and everyone descending from him by natural generations has partaken of his sinful nature (Rom. 5:18, 19; Eph. 2:3, etc.). Therefore, the apostle teaches that if we are ever to be saved there must come some one into our race that, while truly a man, has not descended by natural generation from Adam, and therefore, has not inherited Adam's guilt and sinful nature. To be a substitute for us, He must be a real man; but to be an adequate substitute He must be "holy, harmless, undefiled and separate from sinners" (Heb. 7:26).

How often does the apostle refer to our Lord in this aspect of His unique personality.

"The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam a quickening Spirit. The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven" (I Cor. 15:45-47).

Does not this teach Deity? How could He be Deity if He were the natural seed of Joseph?

"What the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and as an offering for sin, condemned sin in the flesh" (Rom. 8:3).

Does not this teach the pre-existence of Christ before He came into this world? Does it not also teach that He did not inherit our sinful nature, since He did not have sinful flesh? How could this be if He were born like any other man with a human father?

"But when the fulness of 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

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the adoption of sons" (Gal. 4:4, 5). Here we have His pre-existence as the eternal Son and His sinlessness in His humanity; for how could He be sinless if He were an ordinary man like ourselves with a human father; or worse than that, according to the opposers of His virgin birth, the illegitimate child of an impure woman?

"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God, should taste death for every man" (Heb. 2:9).

Here we see Him who was higher than the heavens made lower than the angels, i.e., He became a man in order that He might die in our stead and save us (Heb. 2:16, 17; II Cor. 5:21).

Such Scriptures could be greatly multiplied. See Philippians 2:5-8; I Timothy 3:16; Romans 1:3, etc., etc.

Three things are established by these Scriptures:

1. That Christ was God the Son from eternity, and apart from His birth of the virgin Mary.

2. That He was truly (a) man, without partaking of our sinful nature, and therefore without descending by natural generation from Adam.

3. That He must have these qualities in order to save us. If such is not the case, we Christians have no more of a Saviour than Buddhists or Mohammedans; and all the millions of the saints that have died with the comforting assurance of being absent from the body and present with "the Lord that bought them," have been deceived.

Note 1: The word "sperma" is not, of course, the word used in the original Hebrew of Genesis 3:16 and Jeremiah 22:30; but it is the word used in the Septuagint (Greek) translation, and is the only word that gives the Greek meaning of the Hebrew word.

Note 2: After Jeconiah (or Jehoiachin) was carried to Babylon, Zedekiah, his uncle, was placed on the throne by Nebuchadnezzar and reigned eleven years, but he was not in the true line of succession and all his children were slain, so he could have no successors. It is, therefore, correct to say that Jeconiah was the last king of Judah in the royal succession. From him the Jews dated their captivity (II Kings 24:17, 18; Ezek. 1:2; 33:21; Jer. 52:10).

(The above article is reprinted from the King's Business, of August, 1924).

Is Xmas Holy Day . . .

(Continued from page one)
is no record either in Scripture or in history of the day of His birth.

Instead of X-mas being a commandment of God, it is a commandment of men. "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matt. 15:8-9). The incarnation of the Son of God is without question a very important matter for Christians. Unfortunately, most Christians would, I fear, be satisfied with keeping the baby Jesus in a manger rather than obeying the Sovereign Saviour of sinners and Lord of the universe!

3. Origin Of X-mas.

Of all the reasons for leaving X-mas behind, this is the one that struck me the hardest. The observance of this day really extends back to many years before Christ, back into the old Babylon system of heathen worship. In "History of the Christian Church" by Fisher we find on page 65, "About the end of this period (3rd century) two new festivals came in. One was Epiphany originating in the East—the other was Christmas, a festival of Roman origin taking the place of the heathen festival in honor of the sun or of the deity bearing that name, which was celebrated at the winter solstice or on the 25th of De-

cember the time erroneously assigned for the solstice in the Julian Calendar."

In the "New Americanized Encyclopedia Britannica" it says, "Saturn—an ancient Italian god . . . Saturnalis, this is the great 'Festival of Saturn,' celebrated on the 19th, but after Caesar's reform of the calendar, the 17th of December. Augustus decreed that the 17th and the 18th should be sacred to Saturn and the 19th and 20th to Opalia the festivals of Ops. Caligula added a fifth day, 'The Day of Youth,' December 25th lasting seven days. The time was one of general joy and mirth. The woolen fetters were taken from the feet of Saturn and each man offered a pig. During the festivals schools were closed . . ."

Ample proof can be shown to prove, without a doubt, that our modern Christmas celebration is nothing more or less than a carry-over of the worship of the sun-god, Baal. The heathens worshipped the 'Queen of Heaven', Semiramis. This so-called Queen had a son, his name was Tammuz. The analogy of Mary and Jesus is too close for comfort. Stop and think about it for a moment. The Catholics, when they took over the Mystery Babylon System of worship, inherited the days of that system. They were already going full steam. They then incorporated these ungodly celebrations into so-called "Christian" holy-days. The line of descent is all too easily recognized. Every time you observe Christmas, dear Christian, you bow your knees to Baal, the queen of heaven, and last, but certainly not least . . . the POPE!

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Rev. 18:4). The title of this day is a dead giveaway of where it came from. Christmas is only the modern version of the Catholic Christmas. A mass is a continual sacrifice. Each mass observed by Catholics is supposed to add to the atonement of Jesus Christ. December 25th is the biggest mass (mess) of the year for Apostate Christendom!

4. The World Loves It.

"And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God" (Luke 16:15). Those things which the world holds as dear to their hearts are an abomination in the sight of God. The god of this world has successfully replaced the Christ of God with Santa Claus, and the bloody cross of Calvary with a decorated evergreen tree. All the revelry and joy that annually occurs in December never has and never will glorify God.

The very fact that the entire world, most of them defiant rebels and rejectors of Jesus Christ, hold hands with so-called saints to sing X-mas carols and decorate their trees proves beyond question that Christ is not in Christmas. The slogan, "Put Christ back in Christmas", is really rather funny considering He has never been in it! If the world really honors and loves Jesus Christ why do they continue to desecrate His day (Sunday), lie, drink, murder, fornicate and blaspheme the One they claim to love and then supposedly honor Him two days out of the year—Christmas and Easter.

The fact is the world has never loved Jesus Christ, and until His 1000 year reign men will continue in complete disobedience to Him. If our Lord returned today to walk among men as He did nearly 2000 years ago they would cry, "Crucify Him, Crucify Him, away with Him", just as they did before! Anything as popular with the world as X-mas is, not of God. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (I John 2:15). "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me"

NEW GUINEA PHOTOS — (Continued)



(4) This picture was made on the inside of the new church building. Seated from left to right is Elder Tingo Kewane, Elder Ekere Ibago and Elder Jesse Pakahe. Brother Kewane and Ibago were ordained on this particular Sunday, after having been taught for three years by Brother Pakahe. This picture was taken just after Brother Pakahe had asked the questions in the ordination service. Note that Brother Pakahe has his right leg amputated at the knee.



(5) This picture shows Brothers, Ibago, Pakahe and Kewane just as they had walked out of the church building at the close of the ordination service. Brothers Ibago and Kewane are now teachers in our Bible School in operation here on the Mission Station. In our Bible School we have 10 that attend classes 5 days a week, plus 2 nights for 4 hours. Three regular night students with some that come occasionally. We already have 35 enrolled for a new class to start in January, with some more to come.



(6) While we had spent a week on Bougainville, all of the flood waters had not gone down when we left. There had been enough repair work done and new stretches of road cut out through the bush that a 4-wheel drive vehicle could get through, so we were able to drive all the way to Kieta. This picture shows a vehicle as it was just getting across one of the rivers. I was in another vehicle behind this one when I made this picture. Beloved, whether it be on the island of Bougainville or Papua, New Guinea, the life is pretty rugged at times but we love every moment of it. I am more convinced each day of my life that God equips and calls certain men for certain jobs. There has to be more behind a missionary than for an individual just to "feel that this would be a good thing to do." Not only does God equip certain men for certain tasks, but He also directs the individual to the exact field where He would have him labor. Beloved, there is no credit that goes to me for being able to spend the last 20 years of my life here in this rugged country, and love every moment of it. It has already been proven that not every one can take this type of life, to say nothing of enjoying it at the same time. I am thankful for the sufficiency of God's marvelous and amazing grace. I hope you have enjoyed this series of photos of our work here. We will soon have some more pictures for you.

(Matt 15:8).

5. The X-Mas Tree.

Long before there was a Christmas, men were cutting down fir trees from the forest, decorating it and putting it in their homes. The Bible records such customs and God's attitude towards them. "Thus saith the Lord, learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with

nails and with hammers, that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not; they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good" (Jer. 10:2-5).

Trees were worshipped by heathens in many lands including Roman Babylon idol worshippers. They worshipped the fir tree as

(Continued on page 6, column 3)

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PAGE FIVE

Christians And Xmas

(Continued from page four)
that state, Adonis grew out of her (does that qualify him as "the branch", a name for Jesus Christ?). The Bible oftentimes mentions the prophets of the groves, where trees were worshipped. The Scandinavians were ardent tree worshippers. A legend tells us that Boniface (Winfred), an English missionary, came upon a group of heathen near an oak tree about to sacrifice a child at it. But, Boniface cut the oak down, and then an evergreen appeared. Winfred convinced the pagans the evergreen stood for Christ, so they all worshipped the evergreen tree.

In fact, almost every group of people worshipped trees in some fashion, but the practice of the Christmas tree goes back to the origin of idolatry, Babylon, where it was believed that Semiramis, the mother of Tammuz, claimed that overnight an evergreen tree sprang up from a dead tree stump. The dead stump supposedly symbolized her dead husband Nimrod; the new evergreen tree was the symbol that Nimrod had come to life again in the person of Tammuz! This belief and tree worship spread to other lands, and the papists incorporated it also into their system.

Do Christians worship the trees? They say they do not, but the act of approaching the tree, kneeling, and putting gifts under it must appear very familiar to the pagans that have been doing thus for centuries. And, what is the difference in having a Christmas tree and observing the accompanying ritual and having a statue of Buddha or some other pagan god and observing a like ritual? There is none whatsoever, except they may feel that the Christmas tree is now "Christianized."

Gift exchanging is likewise of pagan origin, deeply a part of the Roman Saturnalia, who borrowed it from the Greeks (along with the giving of freedom to slaves for a period, wax candles, and others). This pagan practice was easily incorporated into papalism when it was observed that the magi brought gifts to the Christ child. But, in almost every Christmas play, the Biblical account is misconstrued so as to have the shepherds represented as bearing the gifts. Actually, the magi did not arrive to see the child until some time after His birth. By that time, Jesus was living in a house, not a stable (Matt. 2:9-11), and there they presented (not exchanged) their gifts. Our modern practice of exchanging gifts comes from the pagan incorporation of a pagan practice, which permitted the pagans to continue as they had, and introduced the practice to the papist subjects as being the Biblical thing to do. There is nothing wrong with the exchanging of gifts, but when it is done in this manner it is simply the continuation of a pagan form.

Santa Claus is yet another pag-

an form, though probably one of the most recent. Santa Claus and St. Nicholas are usually taken to be the same person, but of different lands. The Norwegian counterpart is Kris Kringle, whose name is a corruption of Kristkindlein, the "Christ Child" ("corruption" is putting it mildly).

Santa Claus is an anti-Christ in the flesh, complete with the attributes of the Almighty Jehovah. As Jehovah's foremost attribute and demand is holiness ("Be ye holy for I am holy"), so is Santa Claus, because a popular song about him says:

"You better watch out, you better not cry,
You better not pout, I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is coming to town."

Many mothers get their little children to behave prior to this season by telling them they won't get anything for Christmas if they don't. Santa Claus is also omniscient, because

"He knows when you've been sleeping,
He knows when you're awake,
He knows if you've been bad or good
So be good for goodness' sake."

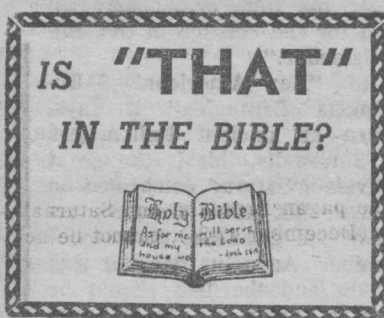
He is likewise omnipotent, for he can take a sled and eight reindeer through the sky. He is also omnipresent, for at midnight on Christmas Eve he is in every chimney. He also performs miracles, and one time when a young boy was cut up, this man found the pieces and put him back together again. Any child that believes in Santa Claus has no need for God.

Other pagan forms borrowed from the pagans and incorporated into the papal system, and eventually borrowed by Christians include kissing under the mistletoe, the yule-log, and the eating of boar and geese.

CONCLUSION

Should the Christian celebrate Christmas? Reasons for celebrating Christmas are usually either "because it is traditional (i.e., 'I always have,' or 'everyone else does') or 'because it is so romantic and full of feeling.'" As to the former, the tradition is pagan and papal, and if one has no quarrel with observing those kinds of traditions, he can justify himself for observing it. But, the tradition of the Anabaptists has been to disdain it. Oliver Cromwell and the Puritans banned it in England in 1642 as being anti-religious, the American Puritans banned it in 1643, and it did not become a legal holiday in the United States until 1856, when the traditions of other lands overcame the religious spirit that had prevailed before. As for the latter reason, no Biblicalist should be caught using sentiments as a reason for celebrating something so diametrically opposed to God's Word.

Some celebrate in ignorance, but "ignorance of the law is no excuse." Checking into any reliable encyclopedia will confirm the conclusion of this paper, and there-



Question:

WHAT WERE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF A BISHOP?

Answer:—Titus 1:7-9.—"For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, . . ." See First Timothy 3:1-7 for an expanded list.

fore the reader can no longer plead ignorance.

Reasons for not celebrating have already been discussed in the body of this paper, and will not be elaborated here except to say that the whole ritual is pagan, and without any Biblical basis whatsoever.

Is Xmas Holy Day . . .

(Continued from page 5)
their god, Baal-Berith, including a feast in his honor on December 25th called "Birthday of the Unconquered Sun". This is another example of how intact Rome has kept this idol worship down through the years and actually has thousands of true Christians worshipping Baal with them. "And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?" (II Cor. 6:15).

6. Christians Not To Observe Religious Holy-Days.

The whole Catholic system is built upon days and works including Christmas, Easter, All Souls Day (Halloween), Good Friday, etc. What a shame to see Christians fall into the hands of the "Prince of the Power of the Air." "Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain" (Gal. 4:10-11). Is not the entire Catholic system "another gospel?" "As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed" (Gal. 1:9). You cannot join hands with a religion and accurse it at the same time! The only day the Christian has to remember is the resurrection day—the first day of the week. And that is to be spent in public and private worship, not gathered around an idol tree offering sacrifices to the sun-god.

7. Christians Are Not To Lie

"A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish" (Prov. 19:9). Is not the story that you tell your children about Santa Claus a lie? Even if you tell them all the truth about Christmas, but continue to celebrate it you can't hide the lie from your neighbors and brothers, and therefore, you show the world a lie. Which horn will you take?

The Bible puts the responsibility of raising children correctly on the parents. "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). The responsibility for instructing the saints of God lies with the pastors of His churches. "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of" (Continued on page 8, column 1)

The Lord's Church

(Continued from Page Three)

for the Lord's people to suffer is for them to just stand firm for the truth.

In I Corinthians 15:3-4 Paul tells us that the gospel that we are to preach in this age is the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. That is the gospel that our Lord wants us to preach in this age. That is the gospel He will bless today. But in Matthew 24 our Lord is speaking concerning the great tribulation time. In verse 14 He says, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." In Matthew 3:2 John the Baptist tells us what the gospel of the kingdom is. There he says, "Repent ye: for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand." The kingdom was at hand in that day, because the King was there present with them. But, since He went back to the Father, we are to preach the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. In the tribulation time the kingdom will really be at hand. In this day we hear all kinds of ways of salvation set forth on T.V. and radio, but let us remember, our Lord is not responsible for all this conglomeration. But if He leaves His churches in the world during the tribulation time to preach the death, burial and resurrection, and at the same time, He seals the hundred and forty-four thousand Jews and sends them out to preach the gospel of the kingdom, the people want to know who to believe, and our Lord would be to blame for it. But beloved, He is not the author of confusion. Our Lord will never be responsible for two different kinds of gospel being preached at the same time. So it is absolutely essential that He come for His people before He sends out the sealed Jews to preach the gospel of the kingdom.

In Revelation 1:19 our Lord divided the time from the organization of His first church up to the time when He comes down to the earth and sets up His kingdom. He tells John to write the things which are. No Bible believer denies that the things which are mean the churches, or church age. This John did in Revelation 2 and 3. Then our Lord said for him to write the things that shall be hereafter. The word "hereafter" here in this verse comes from META TAUTA which means "after these things." I do not know how it could have been said any more plainly that John was to write about the churches, and then he was to write about what was to be after the churches. That simply has to mean that one of them comes after the other. So the things that are to be after the church age must of necessity be after the church age ends. How else, pray tell me, can one of them be after the other? There is just no way under Heaven that these two can be going on at the same time, not even for one hour. So John wrote what is to be after the churches in chapters 4 through 20.

The first thing that we see after John finished writing about the churches is in Revelation 4:1. There he says, "After this (META TAUTA, meaning after these things, the churches) I looked, and behold, a door was opened in Heaven." Then he heard those wonderful words that I believe we will hear when our Lord comes in the air for His saints. Those wonderful words were "Come up hither." Then he is told, "I will shew thee things which must be hereafter (after these things, that is, after the churches)." In verse 2 he says, "And immediately I was in the spirit." How this does speak so clearly concerning our being resurrected, or changed as the case may be. In I Corinthians 15:52 we are told that our change is to take place "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye." How John's being caught up in the spirit immediately in Revelation 4:2 does speak of our being changed in the twinkling of an eye! There is no room for post-trib rapture teaching in a country mile of what we see here. How anybody can see post-trib teaching in the Bible is beyond me. They simply have to be able to see something I am unable to see.

After many years of studying the seven churches of Asia in Revelation 2 and 3 I have come to see that the churches at Ephesus, the one at Smyrna and the one at Philadelphia represent our Lord's true churches throughout this church age. The church at Pergamos represented the apostate churches that our Lord's true churches were forced to withdraw fellowship from in 251 A.D. The church at Thyatira represents the Catholic Church. The church at Sardis represents the Protestant Churches. The church at Laodicea represents some of our Lord's churches who have crowded Him out with their programs. And, as we have already said, the church at Philadelphia represents our Lord's true churches in our day. And in Revelation 3:10 our Lord says, "Because thou hast kept the Word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world." The word "from" comes from EK which means, "out of." And the word "temptation" comes from PEIRASMOS which means "trials with a beneficial purpose and effect." So this verse simply means that our Lord will keep His true churches out of the great tribulation while He sends His trials upon all the world of the Jews in order to prepare them for what we see in Ezekiel 37:1-12, 21-25. As we have already said, the tribulation time is the "time of Jacob's trouble."

(Continued next week)

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

DECEMBER 22, 1979

PAGE SIX

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

At the Kentucky Baptist Convention which met in November, John Dunaway, pastor, First Baptist Church of Corbin, was elected as the new president. In an interview with THE WESTERN RECORDER Pastor Dunaway spoke out on important Southern Baptist issues.

His liberal views on what the ministry of the church is as well as the need of retaining liberals and infidels in the seminaries are most shocking. Dunaway, a product of Southern Seminary, said concerning the ordination of women: "God calls women as well as he does men." It is remarkable Mr. Dunaway does not quote any New Testament Scripture or refer to one New Testament example of a woman preacher. Can you guess why?

SANTA KATERINA—Mount Sinai, deep in the Sinai Desert and central to the imagination of three great faiths, passed back from Israeli to Egyptian control in a military ceremony last Thursday morning.

The handover came some 70 days earlier than scheduled in the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, as a goodwill gesture by Israel (THE JERUSALEM POST, Nov. 18-25, 1979).

The government of Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruholla Khomeini has undertaken a systematic crackdown on the 450,000 member Baha'i sect, Iran's largest minority religion, according to the Human Rights Commission of the Swiss Federation of Protestant Churches. The proposed new constitution for the Islamic Republic of Iran recognizes the Zoroastrians (20,000), Jews (60,000), and Christians (300,000), but not the Baha'is. According to the Commission, the Iranian government has seized and occupied Baha'i centers, homes, businesses, and institutions, impounded funds, and arrested individuals on trumped-up charges (CHURCH & STATE, 11-79).

The official leaders of churches in Communist countries deny that any persecution takes place. They have succeeded in convincing many pastors in the free world.

Before the revolution, Russia had 56,000 Orthodox churches. Although the population of the USSR has doubled since then, they now have only 7,000 churches. The others have been closed, torn down, or changed into museums of Atheism.

Moscow, a town of 7 million inhabitants, has one Protestant and one Catholic church (JESUS TO THE COMMUNIST WORLD, 11-79).

After more than 30 years of Communist rule, 10 million citizens—over half of the population—still register themselves as Christians in East Germany. Eight million are members of one of the eight provincial churches of the

Evangelical Church Federation, 1.2 million are Roman Catholics, and the rest belong to free churches and other religious groups.

Greece's highest court has rejected as illegal the government decree establishing diplomatic ties with the Vatican. It is said the Vatican could not be accepted as a state because the Pope is the leader of the Catholic Church and the Vatican has little territory (CHURCH & STATE, 11-79).

SAVANNAH, Ga. (EP)—Though adherents to biblical inerrancy prevailed at the Southern Baptist Convention last June, electing one of their own as president, they failed at the Georgia Convention here to depose the official newspaper editor for his "liberal" views.

Instead, the 3,100 delegates, by a 4 to 1 margin, approved a vote of confidence in Jack U. Harwell, the embattled editor of the Christian Index. The delegates also ruled out the possibility of a biblical inerrancy oath for convention employees by reaffirming the Baptist Faith and Message statement as the only theological guideline for personal and fellowship decisions.

Xmas

(Continued from page one)
dear to us gather near to us once more. . . .

It was against the law in early America and at the same time in England to observe Christmas. The main reason for this action was because it had originally been celebrated by the Catholic Church as Christ's Mass. An article appearing in the National Inquirer under the date of December 26, 1978, read, in part:

"Because it had long been observed as Christ's Mass, the Puritans claimed that Christmas was a Roman Catholic holy day—and therefore, detestable. Sermons and speeches labeled it 'antichrist mass, and idolatry.'"

"And many of the rituals of Christmas were nothing more than leftover pagan practices associated with old Roman holidays, according to the Puritans."

The above paragraph ends by stating "according to the Puritans." I desire, however, to point out that even the Catholics admit that it was not the custom of the early churches to observe Christmas. The Catholic Encyclopedia, which is published by the Catholic Church reads as follows:

"Christmas was not among the early festivals of the church . . . the first evidence of the feast is from Egypt. Pagan customs centering around the January calendar gravitated to Christmas . . . in the Scriptures, sinners alone, not saints, celebrated their birthday."

The Schaff-Herzog encyclopedia

also stands behind the action taken by the Puritans. It reads as follows regarding Christmas:

"How much the date of the festival depended upon the pagan Brumalia (December 25) following the Saturnalia (December 17-24), cannot be accurately determined. The pagan Brumalia and Saturnalia (December 17-24), cannot be accurately determined. The pagan Brumalia and Saturnalia were too deeply entrenched in popular custom to be set aside by Christian influence . . . The pagan festival with its riot and merry-making was so popular that Christians were glad of an excuse to continue its celebration with little change in spirit and in manner. Christian preachers of the west and near east protected against the unseemly frivolity with which Christ's birthday was celebrated, while the Christians of Mesopotamia accused their western brethren of sun-worship for adopting as Christian this pagan festival."

We must state again that the Puritans were correct in that they did not observe Christmas.

The following article taken from the Middletown Journal, under the date of December 18, 1977, shows that the early Americans knew what they were talking about. The following article was marked—Chicago (AP).

"A near-sacrifice to a pagan god; a gentle bishop of Asia Minor; a poisonous plant under which foes could gather in peace, if only briefly. They are the bizarre but mostly forgotten origins of three of the most popular symbols of Christmas: the fir tree, Santa Claus and mistletoe . . . the English missionary Winfred, who later became Saint Boniface, is said to have come upon some Druids who were about to slay a young prince as an offering to their god Thor. Winfred called a halt to the proceedings and cut down the sacred oak tree against which the human sacrifice was to have taken place. Legend has it that a young fir sprang up where the oak had stood. The missionary told the Druids to adopt the fir as their new holy tree and explained to them that it was the tree of peace and of Christ."

"The belief that Santa delivered his gifts to the home via the chimney stems from an old Norse legend according to the encyclopedia. The Norse believed that the goddess Hertha would bring good luck to a home if she appeared in the fireplace."

"It was from the Norse also that the mistletoe so commonly found in homes at Christmas time gaining its wonderful 'kissing' properties."

"A parasitic and poisonous plant which grows on the trunks of trees, mistletoe, had been used ceremoniously by early Europeans. The ancient Celts used it as a charm and northern mythology has it that an arrow made of mistletoe killed one of their gods. But it was perhaps the early Scandinavians who gave the plant its sociable qualities. They considered it a plant of peace. Warring factions would declare a truce if they met under it. It is thought that the modern custom of kissing under it began here, according to the World Book."

"The Scandinavians are also believed to have bequeathed to us the yule log and the term 'yule' to describe the holiday season."

"The pagan festivities included the burning of the huge log in honor of the god Thor. With the arrival of Christianity the custom of burning the log spread throughout Europe and included the dragging of the log into the home. Using an unburned portion of it to light next year's yule log would bring good luck."

It becomes more and more obvious as we proceed that the people of early America were correct by their refusal to observe Christmas.

The following article taken from the Middletown Journal, under the date of November 23, 1961, shows that Christmas was even illegal in early America.

"Colonial New England did not

celebrate Christmas, according to the researchers, because the stern Puritan colonists believed that such activities were wholly pagan and forbade them by law. Christmas came to the American colonies while it was the subject of strenuous controversy in England. English Puritans condemned it as 'popish' and the secular celebration as a 'wanton bacchanalian feast.'

"Opposition of the English Puritans to the festival culminated in the act of Parliament in 1647 which abolished the observance of Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide. This action was echoed in the American colonies in 1659 when Puritans enacted a law in the general court of Massachusetts to punish those who 'kept Christmas.'"

"The law read 'whosoever shall be found observing any such day as Christmas or the like, either by forebearing of labor, feasting, or in any way . . . shall be subject to a fine of five shillings.'"

"The law was repealed in 1681 but many of the Puritans were not reconciled to this action. Secular revelling at Christmas had often interfered with religious devotions and offended the Puritans' moral sense. This intensified their sectarian hostility to the religious observance of Christmas—an attitude they maintained for the better part of two centuries (until 1881) in parts of New England."

"The latter half of the eighteenth century saw a swing of attention to the realm of economics and politics and religious controversies became of less importance . . ."

Denominational opposition to the ecclesiastical observance of Christmas, however, continued into the second half of the nineteenth century. An account in the New York Daily Times for December 26, 1855 read:

"The churches of the Presbyterians, Baptists and Methodists were not open on December 25 except where some mission schools had a celebration. They do not accept the day as a holy one . . ."

Scholars are not agreed regarding the exact date of our Lord's birth. One thing, however, which they do agree on is that He was not born on December 25 or even close to this date.

We know from the biblical record that the shepherds were abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. This could never have occurred on December 25, since the shepherds always brought their sheep from the mountain side and corralled them no later than October 15. They did so in order to protect them from the cold rainy season which followed. Volume five and page 386 of Adam Clark's Commentary states:

"It was an ancient custom among the Jews of those days to send out their sheep to the fields and deserts about the passover (early spring) and bring them home at the commencement of the first rain."

An article appearing in the Middletown Journal in 1961, read:

"True date of Christ's birth a mystery . . . the exact date of Jesus' birth has been disputed by scholars for centuries. In fact, about all they agree on is that it is not December the 25th . . . Most scholars estimate that the true date falls in late August or early September. It is not even certain why December 25 was chosen, though there is generally one accepted reason. Saturnalia was the great Roman holiday and it came the third week of December. Christian leaders hoped that celebrating Christmas at this time would lessen the impact of the pagan festival. Also, December in all civilized lands in the early centuries was the time of many winter festivities."

That which also brands Christmas as not belonging to the followers of Christ, is the fact that the entire Christmas program is a lie. We learn from Proverbs 6:17 that our Lord hates lies: Why then would we celebrate His birthday with lies?

We have already noted that it is

Missionary To New Guinea Eld. Fred T. Halliman



FRED T. HALLIMAN

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ELDER FRED T. HALLIMAN
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Papua, New Guinea.

a lie that December 25 is the Lord's birthday. Let us now note some of the other lies which surround Christmas. Santa Claus is a lie. It is a lie that Santa climbs down chimneys; that he fills stockings with good things; that he places toys under trees; that he has a sleigh and that it is pulled by a team of reindeer; that he sees, hears and knows the thoughts and actions of boys and girls through out the year; that he visits the home of every boy and girl in the world, etc.

The question arises as to why people will not hear and heed the truth regarding Christmas. The answer is found in Jeremiah 5:31: "The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?"

The name "Christmas" should cause each of us to take a long hard look at it. Christmas, in fact, comes from the observance of Christ's mass by the Catholic Church. This is the main reason the early American Puritans refused to observe it. An article appearing in the National Inquirer, under the date of December 26, 1978, read, in part:

"Because it had long been observed as Christ's mass, the Puritans claimed that Christmas was a Roman Catholic holy day—and therefore, detestable. Sermons and speeches labeled it 'antichrist mass, and idolatry.'"

The very word "mass" should cause us to beware of Christmas. My reason for saying this is the fact that the mass, which is observed by the Catholic Church, denies the all-sufficiency of the atonement which our Lord made at Calvary. Their teaching is that the mass is not a mere representation of the sacrifice of Christ, but that it is a continuation of the same offering. The priest even commands our Lord to come down from glory and become a piece of bread. The Catholic Church even teaches that the mass adds to and improves upon the sacrifice which our Lord made at Calvary.

It becomes more and more obvious, as we proceed, that the early Americans and the people in England were correct in their con-

(Continued on page 8, column 3)

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

DECEMBER 22, 1979

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WFTA, Fulton, Miss.	Sun.— 1:00-1:30 p.m.	101.7	3000 FM
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Is Xmas Holy Day...

(Continued from page six)

Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ" (Eph. 4:11-15).

Woe unto the pastor that won't warn his flock about the idolatry of Christmas and Easter! Mothers, don't be deceived by sentimentality, instead tell your children the truth and God will bless you for it. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). Parents and pastors must not be guilty of en-

dorsing falsehoods. "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment" (Ex. 23:2).

Conclusion

A Christian has been bought and paid for by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (I Peter 1:18-19). I beseech you, Christian friends, to meditate on the things which have been said. Which is more important to you—the praise of men or the praises of God? The answer to that question should decide which side of the new-birth you are on.

If you intend on being a faithful servant of God, you must put down the things which God hates. "And what agreement hath the

temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (II Cor. 6:16-18).

The sufferings of this present world are nothing compared to the rewards of Heaven! "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18). "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (II Cor. 4:17). The bride of Christ will be composed of those that have suffered for Jesus in this life. "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he will also deny us" (II Tim. 2:12).

May the God of all grace grant us the strength and grace to overcome the temptations of the Roman idolatry of Christmas! "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17).

Xmas

(Continued from page 7)

denation of Christmas.

One Christmas party however, was of great value to early America and to us today. It was the celebration that occurred on December 25, 1776. You may recall that this was the night in which George Washington and his troops crossed the Delaware to surprise and defeat the Hessian troops who were stationed at Trenton, N. J. It is believed by many that Washington's bold venture succeeded because the Hessians were enjoying their customary Christmas revels and failed to maintain the usual watch and patrol.

We have already noted that Christmas is built upon a platform of lies. Christmas, in fact, would become just another day if all the lies were removed from beneath it. One of the lies which I have not mentioned is the one which states that three wise men followed a star to Bethlehem on the night in which our Lord was born. The Bible, in fact, does not say how many wise men there were and neither does it state that a star guided them to Bethlehem. The wise men, in fact, did not need a star to guide them to Bethlehem, since they were wise men; that is, they were wise concerning the Old Testament prophecies which stated that He would be born in Bethlehem of Judea.

A careful study of the matter shows that the wise men did not visit Christ on the night in which He was born. We, in fact, learn from Matthew, chapter two, that our Lord was living in a house when the wise men came to visit Him. It was at this time that the star, which they had previously seen, guided them to His abiding place. The fact that His abiding place at this time was a house, is confirmed by Matthew 2:11: "And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with His mother, and fell down, and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts; gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

You will observe that the passage of Scripture speaks of the Lord Jesus as a "young child" and such is what He was at this time rather than a babe in a manger. This fact is confirmed further by verse 14 where we are informed that Mary was able to travel. This, of course, would not have been true if the visit by the wise men had been on the night in which our Lord was born. I'm con-

XMAS

Twenty-fifth of December, another year trod,
And the world, once again, is serving its "god";
But alas, for God's children are joining in too,
Forgive them, dear Lord, they know not what they do!

How well I remember and surely realize,
I too was in bondage 'til You opened my eyes;
Thank You, precious Lord, for setting me free
From this thing called Xmas' real idolatry!

Oh! I remember how hard it was to break
The tradition of men, and finally forsake
This heathen holiday, even though I'd heard
That it was pagan, forbidden in God's Word.

No time to read my Bible, to praise Your name, or pray,
Too busy getting ready for that "most important" day;
No thought of Your second coming, though You bade me
"watch and wait",
For I must keep Your "Birthday", though You gave
me not the date!

No harm, thought I, to decorate and have a Xmas tree,
To gather 'round and gifts exchange with friends and family;
If I don't they'll think me narrow, and may even call me
"Scrooge."

It's not like I would celebrate with revelry and booze!

And thus, deceiving self, went I from year to year,
'Til one day, Lord, Your still, small voice came through
quite clear;
Come out and be ye separate, touch not the unclean thing,
Be not yoked with unbelievers, this message You did
bring!

Then I started studying to find out the reason why,
Xmas is an abomination to my God on high;
And to my great amazement, this is what I found,
That I was an idolator on very dang'rous ground!

For Xmas, with all its customs, can be traced to ancient
Rome,

'Twas there the Catholic church adopted as its own,
Astarte, the queen of heaven, and Tammuz, her son,
Originating with Nimrod and ancient Babylon!

The story of Tammuz, the sun-god, and his resurrection,
How strange that it should parallel the life of God the
Son!

How very sly of Satan to take these gods, these very same,
And deceive the people of the world by changing their
names!

Thus we see the great deceiver up to his greatest tricks,
Changing their names to Mary and Jesus, oh, how very
slick!
How easy to take the feast day with its revelry and dis-
grace,
And change its name to Xmas for the Christians to
embrace!

So when they say "put Christ back in Xmas," I just stand
and stare,
You never could put Him back, for He was never
there!

My God is a jealous God, He will never suffer loss,
Nor share His glory with another, not even Santa
Claus!

—Mrs. Frank Parrish, Courtland, Virginia

vinced that He was living in Nazareth rather than Bethlehem when the wise men visited Him. It is to be remembered that Joseph and Mary had only gone to Bethlehem to pay their taxes. They, however, returned home to Nazareth soon thereafter. I'm also convinced that Joseph and Mary had already taken their new son to Jerusalem before the wise men visited them at their home in Nazareth. Their visit to Jerusalem, in fact, had to have occurred before they fled into Egypt. I draw this conclusion because Luke 2:39 states that they performed all things according to the law: "And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own city Nazareth."

The question now arises as to what the law required. Our answer is found in Leviticus 12:1-4: "And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a woman have conceived seed, and born a man child: then she shall be unclean seven days; according to the days of the separation for her infirmity shall she be unclean. And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised and she shall then continue in the blood of her purifying three and thirty days; she shall touch no hallowed thing, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying be fulfilled."

We know from Luke 2:39 (above) that Joseph and Mary did according to that which was laid down in Lev. 12:1-4 (above). This means that the Lord Jesus was at least 41 days old when the wise men came to visit Him. I say this because He was living in a house, and, according to Luke 2:39, He did not abide in His home in Nazareth until after they had performed all things according to the law.

The second chapter of Luke shows that the shepherds rather than the wise men visited our Lord on the night of His birth. They did not follow a star as they did not even see the one which the wise men saw. We know from Luke 2:10 that the angel informed the shepherds of His birth.

It becomes very obvious from that which we have written that Christmas does not have Heaven's blessings upon it. It was invented by man and is only of this world, therefore, we must not conform to it.

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Rom. 12:2).

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thess. 5:21,22).

"Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil..." (Ex. 23:2).

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