

The modern girl is made by the modern man.

Happy New Year!

1979 IN RETROSPECT...

By The Editor

The year that has ended was not a pretty year. It has been a year of holocaust in Vietnam and Cambodia. We will all remember scenes of drowning people on rickety boats. People without a country and no place to go. Cambodia, a land of eight million people, was reduced to four million by Pol Pot's "re-education." As I write this, thousands are starving to death each day in this land—a population is being obliterated. This is holocaust 1979.

Runaway inflation has hit to greatly hinder the work of the Lord's churches. Preachers have less money and greater expense and so do the churches. The end of this problem is not in sight.

EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

President Jimmy Carter prayed with church folks along the Mississippi on his riverboat safari, mollified Jewish leaders uptight about Brother Billy's love affair with Libyans, evoked hurrahs and boos for his witnessing to South Korean President Park Chang Hee. For his efforts he lost his pastor,

Charles Trentham, being dismissed from First Baptist Church in Washington for two divorces and "poor judgment" in other involvements.

Good and bad news alternated from Russia and the Communist bloc. The Soviet Pentecostals remained in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. Amnesty International reported harassment of thousands of Russian believers. Czechoslovakia deported three U.S. Bible smugglers. The Soviet press stepped up a campaign against the Christians as a tool of "international imperialism." Baptists were reported arrested, even at weddings. After 30 years of Communist rule, however, 10 million East Germans still register themselves as Christians.

Mexico accused Wycliffe Bible Translators of being in cahoots with the CIA and cancelled its working agreement. The ban on Churches was lifted in Uganda. The World Council of Churches kept finding guerrilla groups who could use their money.

Globally, Christianity suffered

large statistical losses in the Western world but showed huge gains in the Third World countries and South Asia. An American mission-



MILBURN COCKRELL

ary was kidnapped in the Philippines and missionaries fled Turkey, Iran and several African nations.

EDUCATION

Who says you can't beat city hall? Christian educators proved again in 1979 it can be done.

The most significant triumph was in the area of pressure from the Internal Revenue Service to revoke tax exemptions of schools practicing, in the IRS view, racial discrimination. The Church came out swinging and sent the IRS walls tumbling down after months of offense and counter-offense. Congress eventually amended several bills to tie the IRS hands on the issue.

North Carolina and Kentucky again led the fight against state government regulation of, and intervention in, private Christian school matters. The latest battleground was state-mandated student competency tests, which the schools refused to participate in.

In Kentucky, the court ruled the state cannot prescribe standards for teachers and textbooks in private and parochial schools. Indiana passed several "church freedom" laws, even exempting day care centers from certain state

licensing. The activity spread: a South Dakota case tested state regulatory rights; Bob Jones University beat the IRS on a tax exemption rap; Maine was the latest hotbed of Christian schools; and the private school movement gathered quiet but growing support in the SBC, long known for its support of public education.

Evangelist Lester Roloff compromised with Texas officials on the licensing of his child care homes after criminal charges were threatened to parallel civil action. At one point 300 supporters formed a human barricade to keep the homes open.

The recurring voice for reading, 'riting, 'rithmetic and prayer in public schools was heard. The Supreme Court voted 7-2 to refuse to reopen debate on the highly charged issue. In Tennessee a "neutral" Bible study program was approved; in Arizona voluntary student prayers offered during student assemblies were ruled unconstitutional; Senator Jesse Helms kept calling for prayer in the (Continued on page 3, column 1)

MISSIONARY

PREMILLENNIAL

BIBLICAL

BAPTISTIC

SUFFERING—

The Baptist Examiner

Baptist Is Our Middle Name

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

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TRUE TO GOD: NO MATTER WHAT

JOE WILSON

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

"If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up" (Dan. 3:17-18).

Our text breaks into one of the great stories of the Bible. And what great stories Bible stories are. We should study them more and tell them more. They are all true to the most minute detail. And they all have the tendency to do good to those who read or hear them. And they all promote the glory of God. Out text is in the midst of one of the better known Bible stories. King Nebuchadnezzar had built an image of gold ninety feet high and had it set up in the plains of Dura. He had assembled all the rulers of his vast kingdom to a worship and dedication ceremony for this false god. He had his rock and roll band there to motivate men to the service of Satan. He had given the order that when the music began all present were to fall down and worship this image. He had warned that any who failed to do this would be immediately cast into a burning fiery furnace.

The music begins and the assembled thousands fall on their faces before the image. Look out over that vast throng, and what do you see? A multitude of flesh-pleasing, time-servers on their faces before an idol god. But look again. What do you see besides? There they are. Do you see them? Three men who will not compromise their convictions. Three men who will not bow to an idol god. See them there. They stand out in the crowd. And the way to



JOE WILSON, SR.

stand out in the crowd is to dare to be different, dare to be true to the God of the Bible. Dare to have convictions and to stand true to those convictions.

Dear friends, I insist that there were two miracles performed that day in the plains of Dura. One was the miracle of sustaining grace which enabled these three young men to stand tall, and strong, and true to their God. It is not in the power of the flesh so to stand. Centuries later, the apostle Paul said in I Corinthians 15:10: "I am what I am by the grace of God." These three Hebrew children knew the reality of this truth before Paul penned the words. It was the miracle of sustaining grace which held them up and held them true that day. Beloved, the Christian life is a miracle in its beginning in regeneration; and it is a miracle life every step of the way. The Christian life set forth in the Bible cannot be lived in the power of the flesh. It is not by power and not by might, but by the Holy Spirit of God.

(Continued on page 7, column 3)

WITHOUT THE GATE

JOSIAH MUNNS
(1816-1886)

"Wherefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp, bearing his reproach" (Heb. 13:12-13).

Friends, I find it hard work to

my spirit. I find it hard work to empty depending upon the Lord to help me. Paul speaks of men boasting in a line of things made ready for their hands, and Jeremiah says, "They steal their words from their neighbor." I believe there are many standing up at this present time, not only freewillers but many who profess to preach the truth, boasting in a line made ready to the hands.

I will notice first, that Christ was set forth by the apostle as a great Sacrificial Lamb of God going forth without the camp. I will say a little respecting the sacrifices that were offered under the law, but I will say, that none could be brought to atone for one sin, as Paul said, "Having a shadow of good things to come, but not the very image of the things, can never, with those sacrifices which they offered year by year, continually make the comers thereunto perfect," but speaking of Christ he said, "Lo! I come to do Thy will, O God." He taketh away the first, that He may establish the second. So Christ was the end of all sacrifices, when He "offered Himself without spot unto God," but we will touch a little upon the sacrifices, for they are of ancient date!

Cain brought a sacrifice, which was the fruits of the earth; and every man by nature, is indebted to God as a God of Providence. The Word of God says, that He had no respect unto Cain's offering, there was no visible sign given with it. But God received Abel's offering, and accepted both him and his offering, which was the firstling of flock, there was a life taken and blood shed, and some visible sign from God given. It might be God sent fire, but what ever it was, Cain saw it, and it caused him to murder his brother. Christ calls him "righteous Abel," and that enmity still remains against every poor sinner that is brought before God to plead the blood of Christ as an atonement for sin. "By the deeds of the law shall no man be justified." Paul says, "Abel offered a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain."

I will endeavor, if the Lord helps me this morning, to say a little from this portion of His word. "Wherefore Jesus, also that He might sanctify the people with His (Continued on page 5, column 3)



JOSIAH MUNNS

come time after time before you. I was reading my Bible yesterday for many hours, and could get no text, but just before I went to bed these words came to my mind, and I said, Lord, it is enough and a softness came over

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Milburn Cockrell

THE SEVEN CHURCH AGES

(PREACHED ON THE INDEPENDENT BAPTIST HOUR DECEMBER 9, 1979)

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea" (Rev. 1:10-11).

For the last seven weeks I have treated upon the grammatical-historical meaning of the seven

churches in Revelation chapters 2-3. I have applied the words addressed to each church as a message to that local church actually addressed in its respective city. I pointed out conditions which actually existed at that time, commenting upon the things for which these churches were commended and condemned. I firmly believe this is the primary meaning of these seven epistles dictated by Christ.

Someone has well said, "Every passage of Scripture has a pri-

mary meaning, a practical application and a prophetic revelation." This is definitely true of the seven churches. There is much practical information in them to Christ's churches in all ages. They serve as an admonition to all churches across the centuries. In each generation there has existed some backslidden churches like Ephesus, some persecuted churches like Smyrna, some worldly churches like Pergamos, some lax churches like Thyatira, some dead (Continued on page 2, column 1)

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Seven Church Ages

(Continued from page one)

churches like Sardis, some loving churches like Philadelphia and some lukewarm churches like Laodicea. When such conditions prevail as seen in these seven historic churches in Revelation, churches of today can expect like consequences as attended these churches in Asia Minor.

But all too many times the prophetic revelation of these churches is ignored or denied. Some totally reject any thought of a prophetic revelation of seven church periods in the seven churches. Some object because they think it leads to a-millennialism; others object saying it is a modern innovation which originated in the Scofield Reference Bible. I answer the first objection by pointing out that the letters are a prophetic foreview of New Testament churches. These historical periods already elapsed constitute fulfilled prophecy. Hence there is no tendency to a-millennialism. I answer to the second objection by denying that this view is a modern innovation. The church age view was held by Tichaenius in the fourth century, Arethas of Cappadocia and Primasius of Atrumentum in the sixth century. In more modern times it has been held by Mede, Siess, Ironside, Gaebelin, Scott, Cooper and a number of others. Among the ranks of Baptists its advocates have been such men as J. R. Graves, Clarence Larkins, J. E. Cobb, G. E. Jones, E. C. Gillentine and W. A. Criswell.

There are many good reasons for holding to the prophetic revelation of the seven churches being seven distinct periods of the history of true churches. First, this is a most reasonable view. God gave Moses a foreview of the history of Israel (Deut. 28:63-67). Daniel received a foreview of the history of the Gentile nations from his day until the end of the times of the Gentiles (Dan. 2:7). Then why could Christ not give John a foreview of the entire church age?

Second, the number seven points to completeness, perfection and dispensational fullness. The Book of Revelation is replete with sevens—the seven candlesticks, the

seven lamps of fire, the seven stars, the seven thunders, the seven heads of the beast, the seven crowns upon these heads, the seven plagues, the seven vials and the seven mountains. There are references to "the seven Spirits of God." We know this refers to the one Holy Spirit in His complete office work, or His dispensational fullness. Even so, the seven churches refer to the church as an institution in all its dispensational fullness.

Third, these seven churches were not the only churches in Asia Minor; therefore, they must have a symbolic meaning. Why did Christ not dictate messages to the churches at Rome or Jerusalem? Why did Christ not send epistles to the churches at Colossae and Hierapolis which were in the same Roman province of Asia? The reason must have been that Christ chose these seven churches out of the hundreds existing at the close of the apostolic age because they had the spiritual characteristics which revealed the seven church ages.

Fourth, the letters must have had an application beyond that of each church addressed because of their conclusion. Each of the seven epistles end with the words: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." Note it is not "the church" (singular) but "the churches" (plural). This means what was said to them was said to all churches, all churches from the first century to the Rapture.

Fifth, I suppose there is some secret meaning to the seven churches because they are referred to as "mysteries." Revelation 1:20 speaks of the "mystery of . . . the seven golden candlesticks." Christ said "The seven golden candlesticks" are "the seven churches." There must be some deep prophetic revelation here. Is it not that the seven churches represent seven phases of the history of the true churches?

Sixth, I know there is some special significance in these addresses because they are found in a book of "prophecy" (Rev. 1:3; 19:10; 22:7, 10, 18-19). If there is no meaning beyond the local historical congregations, why are they put in a book of prophecy? The reason must be that they form a vital part of this prophecy being a prophetic foreview of the churches of Christ through the centuries.

Scholars disagree as to the time table of the period and, at least, some would make some of the seven churches to represent both true and false churches. I am unable to see any of the seven churches as false churches myself for the following reasons: First, all seven of these churches were true churches, for Christ Himself called them churches. Christ walked in their midst (Rev. 1:14), a thing which could hardly be said of a false church. Second, the false church is mentioned under the figure of "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" (Rev. 17:5). Third, I know of no place in the Bible where Christ calls a true church a false church. Hence, I affirm these seven churches represent the seven stages of the church throughout her existence on earth.

Some premillennialists apply these seven local churches to the universal, invisible church. Even some Landmark Baptists are not free of this error. Some say these churches represent seven periods of the true church, and then turn around and give a history of Christendom. But Christendom is not the church but the family of God. To make such an application is a step in the direction of universal, invisible church heresy.

It shall be my purpose in this message to give the history of the true New Testament Churches from Christ's personal ministry on earth to the Rapture by developing the historical application and fulfillment of what is predicted. Hence we are to give a bird's eye view of the seven successive periods of the churches during the times of the Gentiles. We shall view the errors, corruptions, mis-

takes and sins of the church as an institution as seen through the eyes of Jesus Christ.

THE EPHESIAN PERIOD A.D. 96-200

The word "Ephesus" means "desired." This is the period of the apostolic and post-apostolic churches. Such churches were "desired" and greatly loved by Christ (Eph. 5:25,28-30,32). Many of these churches heard the inspired apostles preach and enjoy the extraordinary power of the Holy Spirit. These early churches, like the Ephesian Church, were characterized by earnestness and zeal in witnessing. They strongly opposed false apostles (II Cor. 11:13) such as the Gnostics. But after a time their love for Christ waned and heresy was not hated as it once was (Acts 20:29-30).

The fault of the Ephesian Church was its loss of her first love. Outwardly everything was fine, but Jesus Christ knew the hearts of the church members. He knew they were growing cold toward Him. There was a serious cooling of love and devotion for the great Head of the church. This was the chief trait of the churches in the Ephesian Period. They were ceasing to give Christ the pre-eminence. As the churches diminished

RADIO FUND	
Balance Nov. 1, 1979	\$3,036.26
Receipts	1,290.50
	4,326.76
Expenditures	1,575.93
Balance Nov. 30, 1979	\$2,750.83
(\$2,265.67 of which is designated for Radio Caroline).	

more and more in their love for Christ, the Montanists churches in Phrygia rose up in A.D. 156 to protest against this growing problem and to call the churches to repentance.

THE SMYRNA PERIOD A.D. 200-312

"Smyrna" means "myrrh," which was one of the ingredients of the perfume used for embalming the dead. The Smyrna Period was the time of persecution, suffering and martyrdom. Members of true churches in this age were tried by the magistrate and cast into prison. Although sorely tried by both Jews and Gentiles, these little flocks of Christ were faithful unto death.

The Smyrna Period was the time when the irregular churches began to appear. These were not churches of Christ, but synagogues of Satan. There was no fellowship between the regular and irregular churches. Both groups denied that the other group was a true church. The true churches in this time were called Montanists, Novatians and Donatists. They rejected the ordinances and ordinations of the apostate churches. They denied that infant baptism was scriptural baptism. Since they administered the rite of baptism anew to those coming from the heretical churches, they were denominated "Anabaptists" by their enemies. These scattered and persecuted flocks of Christ often gave up their lives rather than to give up their faith.

The "Ten days" in the Smyrna Church's epistle speaks of the ten years of awful persecution by Diocletian during which so many suffered and died. This ten-year persecution was aimed at the extermination of all Christians in the Roman Empire. It is described at length on pages 24 to 33 of FOX'S BOOK OF MARTYRS. Their enemies soon discovered that the blood of the martyrs was the seed of the early Christian churches.

THE PERGAMOS PERIOD A.D. 312-606

The name "Pergamos" means "a tower" or "marriage." The Pergamos Period shows how the church gave up her pilgrim character and married the world. It seems that Emperor Constantine performed the marriage ceremony. The Devil seeing he could not destroy the church from without, led the church into an unholy alliance with the world. This was

BRIEF NOTES

The Illinois Missionary Baptist Institute will begin its Spring Semester, January 3. Subjects offered are: Old and New Testament Survey, Systematic Theology, Revelation, Life of Christ, Evangelism, Greek, Bible Manners and Customs, Speech, Ministerial Practicalities, Cultism, Ecclesiology, and Homiletics. Final day for registration is January 17. For more information write to the Institute, 209 Vohland, Washington, Ill. 61571, or call 745-9229.

spiritual fornication, called by Christ "Balaamism" or "Nicolaitanism." Even some of the true churches were caught up in this union of church and state, although the vast majority of the New Testament churches stayed out of this.

Most historicans believe the days of Constantine were some sort of golden age of the church. They speak of this period as a work of God and victory for Christianity. However, the truth of the matter is just the opposite. The days of Constantine were in fact the work of Satan to defeat true churches by making them into a worldly institution. The union of church and state armed the false churches with all the power of the state to murder the Novatians, the Donatists, the Tertullianists and Paulicians.

THE THYATIRA PERIOD A.D. 606-1450

The word "Thyatira" may be equivalent to "thygatira" which means "daughter." Thus the Thyatira Period was the time when Satan's daughter, the apostate church, did her best to corrupt and destroy the true churches. This was the age of Jezebelistic persecution as was seen in the wars of the Crusades and the rise of the Inquisition. The true churches of these times, called Bogomiles, Paulicians, Paterines, Arnoldists, Albigenses, Henricians, Anabaptists, Petrobrussians and Waldenses, were subjected to hangings, roastings, stabbings, drownings, stranglings, burnings, boilings, poisonings and hacking to pieces. The world will never know the enormous cruelties carried on by the Great Whore against these innocent and God-fearing people. Better than fifty million were slain by this blood-thirsty, murderous, apostate church.

The woman Jezebel was permitted to teach and to seduce God's servants to commit fornication and eat things sacrificed to idols in the Thyatira Church. The woman Jezebel speaks plainly of the Roman Catholic Church with all its paganism from Babylon. In 606 Boniface III was crowned universal bishop or pope. During this period the papacy assumed the place of teacher and dictator.

THE SARDIS PERIOD A.D. 1450-1730

The word "Sardis" means "a remnant" or "an escaping few." The awful persecution of the Dark Ages had driven the true churches

into the Piedmont Alps and the glens of England until they appeared to be dead as to their existence to the world. Nevertheless, some escaped the wrath of the Great Whore. A remnant of true churches lay concealed in almost all countries of Europe and England long before the rise of Luther and Calvin. They were called by various names such as Waldenses, Anabaptists, Lollards, Hussites, Menonites, Wickliffites and Baptists. They were true New Testament churches, and it matters not what men may have called them.

In the Sardis period we see the true churches strengthening the things which remained despite Satanic oppression. Some of the churches did die by being swallowed up in the rise of Protestantism. But God be thanked for those scattered few churches who did "not defile their garments." No matter how bloody and far-reaching the rage of the Prince of Darkness, it was impossible for the gates of Hell to completely prevail against the true churches for which Christ died.

THE PHILADELPHIA PERIOD A.D. 1730-1900

"Philadelphia" means "brotherly love." The "little strength" of the Sardis Period had now become "great strength." Philadelphia was the church of the open door. In this period was the beginning of modern missionary efforts under William Carey, Adoniram Judson, Luther Rice and others. Revivals swept America and England. In this age the greatest books and papers ever published were put out by our Baptist writers, especially is this true of the 1800's. Baptists had their strongest and soundest schools and seminaries in modern times. This was the "Golden Age" of the Baptists. What a blessing to have lived in these times!

The Philadelphia Period was characterized by a rejection of nearly all human pretensions. The Baptist army was united against its common enemies. Their influence and power were felt by the political powers of these times. If ever there was a time when Baptists held strongly to the Word of Christ and refused to deny His name it was in these days. They stood up in great numbers against the corruption of the ordinances of the church. So far as Baptist history is concerned, it may be said these were their finest hours.

THE LAODICEA PERIOD A.D. 1900-Rapture

The word "Laodicea" means "the rights of the people," or "the people's judgment." Baptist churches achieved a great degree of democratic rule in this age. But strong congregational rule tended to go to the extremes. The pastor became a slave to the deacon board, not the overseer of the flock. The churches became dominated more and more by the popular opinion of a self-righteous and self-sufficient majority.

The Laodicea Period is the day in which we find ourselves today. Our churches have fine buildings. (Continued on page 5, column 1)

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If God has called you, do not spend time looking over your shoulder to see who is following.

CONCLUDING CHAPTER . . .

THE LORD'S CHURCH

BY E. G. COOK — Birmingham, Alabama

CHAPTER XVII

Before we end our study on the Lord's Church I feel that we should make a serious study of the way of salvation. No other doctrine in the precious Book has been butchered up as much as this one, and really it is the most important one of all. In Matthew 7:13-14 our Lord says, "Enter ye in at the strait gate." This word "strait" comes from THLIBO, and it means narrow. It can be illustrated by a road through a mountain pass where the valley is just wide enough for the road, and nothing else. There is just no way to get out of that road and still get to where you are headed. This word "strait" is in the passive voice which means that you had absolutely nothing to do with its being narrow. Then our Lord went on to say, "For wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat." There is such a great difference between these two gates. One is so narrow, and the other is wide enough to accommodate just about any and everybody. Then He says, "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." The word "narrow" here also comes from THLIBO, and W. E. Vine says it means hemmed in like a mountain gorge. This word is also in the passive voice which means it was God who hemmed in His way of salvation, and not we ourselves.

I pray that we may study this strait and narrow way in a way that will be pleasing to our Lord. This narrow way is by grace, and grace alone. If anything else is added to it, the way is contaminated. In Ephesians 2:9 Paul tells us that it is "not of works, lest any man should boast." Works here comes from ERGON which means anything that man can do. If our Lord had said He would save us if we would just bat our eye we would boast throughout all eternity that we batted our eye. So in order that He may have all the glory from our salvation He saves us by grace. We can have absolutely no part in grace. It is the unmerited favor of God extended to hell-deserving sinners.

I am aware that many blood-bought, born-again Baptist preachers say the lost, depraved sinner must repent and believe in order to be saved. It is so hard for us to get all the old Roman Catholicism out of our systems. When we say that a depraved sinner must repent and believe in order to be saved, we do that because we just do not believe in total depravity as much as we think we do. Acts 11:18 says that God granted repentance to the Gentiles. This word "granted" comes from DIDOMI which simply means to give. Then in Acts 5:31 we learn that God gives repentance to Israel. So, whether it be Jew or Gentile, God must give repentance to the lost sinner. Repentance comes from METANOEO which really means another mind. In Romans 8:7 we learn that the carnal mind is an enemy to God. If a man can change that carnal mind to one that is not an enemy to God he can save himself. In Acts 18:27 and in Philippians 1:29 we learn that our believing is a gift of God. In Ephesians 2:8 we find that our faith is also a gift of God. All of this should help us to understand Romans 6:23 where we are told that our eternal life is a gift of God. Jonah knew what he was talking about when he said in Jonah 2:9, "Salvation is of the Lord."

I hope we have come to see that in that strait and narrow way there is room for just one way of salvation, and no more. So if a preacher is adding something to grace as the way of salvation, he is on dangerous ground. To the left of that strait and narrow way we hear so many ways of salvation being proclaimed. Some preachers say that there is no salvation apart from baptism. Baptism is something that man does, so it cannot be grace. If those preachers are right, Ephesians 2:8-9 cannot be true. Take your choice as to who is right. I have already taken mine. Others say salvation is by penance, or by a perfect work of charity. But all these ways are so far from grace that no Baptist can believe them. But many Baptist preachers have imbibed so

(Continued on Page 6, Columns 4 and 5)

1979 . . .

Nixon.

PUBLISHING

(Continued from page one)
schools whenever things got slow in Congress; and a Denver pastor, becoming an ecclesiastical Nathan Hale, threatened "to use the methods of the American Revolution" to get prayer and Bible reading back in the schools.

In other educational notes, the Grand Canyon College (Baptist) baseball team was barred by school officials from going to the NAIA World Series when photos revealed the boys swigging bubbly in the locker room. In Virginia a "Christian" school was sued for forbidding a white female student to talk with a black male classmate. And the parochial schools of the Philadelphia archdiocese were assisted by contributions from a California resident, Richard M.

A Bible translation, a campus newspaper and an Indian (?) were major newsmakers.

Thomas Nelson Publishing unveiled its \$3½ million baby, the New King James Bible—New Testament, which hit the scene in a whirl of promotion met by polite applause. The whole Bible is to be released in 1981.

Reader's Digest worried fundamentalists with its announcement of a projected Bible condensation; Soviet authorities permitted the printing of 20,000 Bibles and 25,000 hymnals, but there was no abatement in Bible smuggling; and the Chinese version of the complete Living Bible was released in Hong Kong.

A final week's edition of the University of Minnesota student newspaper featured a religious satire,



The Baptist Examiner

BIBLE STUDY LESSON

By WILLARD PYLE

Pastor — First Baptist Church of Naples Park, Florida

For January 20, 1980

Amos 9:1-7.

Intro.: As the prophetic bands of judgment tighten, Amos proclaims the God of righteous judgment Who stands supreme over all (Psa. 103:19-22).

VERSE 1

"I saw the Lord standing." The ever active God Who administers the affairs of Heaven and earth (Dan. 4:35). Contrast the story of Stephen as the Lord stands to receive His faithful servant (Acts 7:55); and as He walks in the midst of His churches to command or to correct (Rev. 1:13).

"Upon the altar." The altar, instead of portraying in type and shadow the Person and work of Christ had been polluted until it was replaced by idolatrous practices. It had become a mixture of the true and the false, thereby frustrating the grace of God (Gal. 2:21; Rom. 11:6; Acts 15:1).

"And He said." In view of the existing conditions God proclaims the message of death and destruction instead of the expected message of commendation.

"Smite the lintel of the door, that the posts may shake." The death angel does not see the blood of the passover nor does Jesus stand at the door and knock but there is the loud knock of judgment as the whole house comes crashing down. Compare Samson

complete with four letter words and sexual references to Christ. After the storm, the Board of Regents retained the paper's student fee support. Religious and student organizations continued the fight.

Moody Press declared the books of author Crying Wind "out of print" when the identity and background of the best-selling author came into serious scrutiny after years of questions. While bookstore owners bemoaned the blacklisting of a marketable commodity, both Moody and Crying Wind maintained silence rather than possibly speak with forked tongue.

The Christian Booksellers Convention (St. Louis) drew a record number of visitors, exhibitors and bookstores represented; postal rates increased 625 percent in Australia, and U.S. publishers fought the good lobbying fight in Congress to stay in business; The Banner, official publication of the Christian Reformed Church, was named "Periodical of the Year" by the Evangelical Press Association; Britain's Scripture Union celebrated its Bible reading centenary; and in the "in-case-it-hasn't-dawned-on-you" department, Bob Jones Jr. wanted us to know the King James Bible is not "an inspired translation."

In news to gladden the heart of any struggling yet well-heeled author, Logos International announced evangelical publishing's first "vanity press" as a service to those desiring "to publish their own books at a reasonable cost."

BROADCASTING

The PTL television network tried to get its act together but, with every finger in the dike, there was a leak elsewhere. In January, Jim Bakker declared the money troubles over through a "miracle bigger than I asked for," but, like some miracles, it was spelled m-i-r-a-g-e.

The Federal Communications Commission launched an investigation of PTL's television fundraising. This was met by thousands of protest letters. In November, Heritage Village, the PTL complex, received tax exempt status but was ordered to pay \$8,000 in delinquent back taxes. In a fund raising appeal, of all places, (Continued on page 4, Col. 2)

as he is granted the power to bring the house of the Philistines down (Judges 16:28-30).

"And cut them in the head, all of them." Their vaunted glory would be destroyed. They, like the serpent, would have their power destroyed (Gen. 3:15); in reality, that old serpent the Devil (Rev. 12:9).

"And I will slay the last of them with the sword." Divine justice would be executed (Rev. 2:16; Psa. 7:12, 13).

"He that fleeth of them shall not flee away." God will pursue and close every exit.

"And he that escapeth of them shall not be delivered." Anyone who seemingly has outdistanced the sword will only find it was wishful thinking, as he too will suffer the same consequences as the rest.

VERSE 2

"Though they dig into hell, thence shall Mine hand take them." God's hands, by which He preserves His saints (John 10:28, 29), will uncover and prosecute His enemies.

"Though they climb up to heav-

en, thence will I bring them down." At the entrance of sin man tried to flee from God and hide himself, but to no avail; nor has he ever or shall he ever succeed (Psa. 139:7-9). A blessed thought to the saints, but a sad thought to the sinner!

VERSE 3

"And though they hide themselves in the top of Carmel, I will search and take them out thence." Both God's vision and power cannot fail. He searches every crevice and looks under every rock.

"And though they be hid from My sight in the bottom of the sea, thence will I command the serpent, and he shall bite them." Even when it appears a safe hiding-place has been found, God will reveal His omnipotence in using the serpent as His executioner. Like God's prophet Jonah, the enemies of the Lord will find that both the winds and the great fish are God's servants and are under His control.

VERSE 4

"And though they go into captivity before their enemies." Some will cast themselves on the mercy of the enemy, thinking they will save themselves.

"Thence will I command the sword, and it shall slay them." However, nothing will avail because they have been marked for judgment.

"And I will set Mine eyes upon them for evil, and not for good." Contrast I Peter 3:12. God's frown of judgment carries the death penalty. However, we can praise God for the smile of His countenance through the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 2:28; Num. 6:24-26).

VERSE 5

"And the Lord God of hosts is He that toucheth the land, and it shall melt." How great is the power of our God when just a touch brings with it such devastating results! Again, the saints should thank God for the touch of mercy (Rev. 1:17).

"And all that dwell therein shall mourn." Like Sodom and Gomorrah, it is a total judgment and the mourning is so great it is one continual cry.

"And it shall rise up wholly like a flood; and shall be drowned, as by the flood of Egypt." To see the land flow like a river under the judgment of God should make us cry out, "Flee from the wrath to come."

VERSE 6

"It is He that buildeth His stories in the heaven, and hath founded His troop in the earth; He that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth. The Lord is His name." One of the greatest verses in the Word of God to set forth the majesty and the greatness of God. Yes, He sitteth on the circle of the earth (Isa. 40:22), and has founded it upon nothing! May we cast all of our care upon Him. May we talk of all His wondrous works.

VERSE 7

"Are ye not as children of the Ethiopians unto Me, O children of Israel? saith the Lord. Have not I brought up Israel out of the land of Egypt? and the Philistines from Caphtor, and the Syrians from Kir?" Lest Israel vaunt herself, she had to be reminded by nature she was no better than any other nation (Rom. 3:9; Eph. 2:3).

Conclusion: May God help us to have a proper view of the truths presented in this lesson.

(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.)

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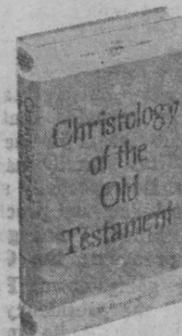
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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
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PAGE THREE

The Baptist Examiner Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

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

What are the gates of hell in Matthew 16:18?

OSCAR MINK
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Missionary
Baptist Church
Mansfield, Ohio
44906



"The gates of hell," i.e., "Hades." "The gates of Hades" is generally interpreted to mean all the diabolical powers of the unseen world, especially, the power of death. Every person not washed in the atoning blood of Christ goes down through those dread gates of eternal death. The Lord's church as an institution was given an immortal nature, and it shall never die. The unseen world sends forth against the church legions of demons, but they are not able to swallow up the church. The church will be reigning with Christ after every gate of Hades is eternally shut against it. Christ in His death and resurrection triumphed over all the powers of Hades, making a show of them openly (Col. 2:15). The comforting and reassuring word to the church is, "I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore. Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death" (Rev. 1:18). The gates of Hades have and shall continue to vehemently assail the church until the Lord returns, but the church cannot be overcome.

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PASTOR
Kings Addition
Baptist Church
South Shore, Ky.



When we speak of the gates of Hell we are speaking of that which is the opposite to Heaven. We rejoice in the thoughts of Heaven, we tremble at the thoughts of Hell. Heaven is all the precious promises of grace, mercy and truth. Hell is the opposite in every way.

Satan, for whom Hell was made, and his demons are constantly trying to destroy all that belongs to the Lord. Of course he will not succeed but he will cause as much trouble as he can.

The Lord gave us his church. Satan will try to destroy it. He tries in many ways. One of the ways that he tries will be through

J. M. PENDLETON'S

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false prophets. "For there shall arise false prophets and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that if it were possible they shall deceive the very elect" (Matt. 24:24). "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily bring in damnable heresies . . ." (II Pet. 2:1).

In Matthew 16:18 Christ is promising His people that no matter how hard Satan tries with the false doctrines of Hell and all the forces of Hell he cannot prevail.

Rest assured that the Lord's church has been, and will continue to be, in existence. The gates of Hell will not prevail against it.

HAROLD HARVEY
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42633



"And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

This verse teaches perpetuity of the church that Jesus built during His personal ministry. It promises that His kind of church will be in existence, when He comes for His saints.

Hell in this passage is the Greek word Hades, which means unseen world. Jesus said that His kind of church will not pass through the gates of Hades to the unseen world and go out of existence.

The Lord was speaking of His church generically, for individual New Testament churches have gone out of existence, but not all of them. I knew of a church near Richmond, Kentucky, organized in the 1700's that went through the gates of Hades, because they did not remain true to Baptist doctrine. Other churches of the same kind were organized in the same area and operate as scriptural New Testament churches today.

Baptists discuss chain link succession, continuity and perpetuity. I am compelled to believe these, because of this promise of perpetuity.

Satan would like for the Lord's churches to go through those gates and out of existence. He has tried through the ages with all power that that kind of church might be put out of existence.

I rejoice in the promise of perpetuity.

(Continued from page three)
Mr. Bakker revealed that there was a bomb threat in the studio and that his family had been threatened. He reportedly sent his family into hiding and proclaimed, "If I am killed, I am going to go down preaching the Gospel."

In other goings-down, Paul M. Stevens left the presidency of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission under fire, taking "early retirement."

The National Federation of Decency grew in followers and influence. CBS was the main target, especially the "Flesh and Blood" show that paraded incest as the latest TV titillation. Liquor manufacturer Hueblein and a subsidiary, Kentucky Fried Chicken, were roasted for their sponsorship of "violence, vulgarity, immorality and profanity" on TV. The sponsors claimed their shows were hardly an original recipe.

Evangelist James Robison and WFAA-TV in Dallas battled over Robison's remark about homosexuals. First he was off the air, then back on: with "no compromises," he promised.

Religious movies included "Life of Brian" by England's Monty Python comedy troupe, which turned out to be, according to many critics, "blasphemous, sacrilegious, and the foulest-spoken Biblical epic ever made." Warner Brothers spent \$6 million on "Jesus," which was hailed as the most Scripturally-accurate religious film ever made and also called "dull." The scoreboard: "Brian" played to waiting lines; "Jesus" to empty seats.

The Mexican government refused to lift restrictions against evangelical programming; the showing of "Holocaust" led to tips on war criminals; the "electric church" was criticized as being a tool of the "new right;" broadcast deregulation died in Congress; officials in Hong Kong reported listener response from mainland China to Bible reading programs was "increasingly spectacular;" and in Memphis, WREG-TV replaced a Sunday morning worship service with University of Tennessee taped football.

LIFESTYLES

Soldiering was the year's most unpopular lifestyle. Even old men, who usually send young men off to war, came out against it. With the volunteer army apparently a shambles, draft soundings were taken. It was opposed by the peace churches, Secretary of Defense Harold Brown, and the Carter administration before the House voted 252-163 against a proposal to revive 18-year-old male registration. In related events, a West Berlin Bishop advised youth to refuse service in event of conflict, peace churches in Nicaragua challenged the government's conscription decree, and William Sloan Coffin, twice arrested activist, blasted our "obsession" with arms.

Senator Bob Dole grabbed headlines with his Federal cult hearings but grudgingly turned them into "seminars" after being admonished by religious, government and charitable groups. Hare Krishna stocked arms but was outdrawn in airports. The Unification Church's street take was again in the millions. The Church of Scientology lost a \$2 million court ruling to an Oregon woman. Nine Scientology leaders pleaded guilty to infiltrating and burglarizing government offices. They included Mary Sue Hubbard, wife of Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard.

More and more Christians moved forcefully into political action with Christian Voice, SBC's Christian Citizenship Corp, and other official and unofficial organizations lobbying and politicking. The activity drew both praise and censure. There were 30 million abortions worldwide. "Pro-Life" and "Pro-Choice" advocates held marches in Washington.

Fundamental and conservative Christians continued to be the dam holding back the Equal Rights Amendment. Moody Bible Institute forced out Professor Stanley Gundry, reportedly over his wife's pro-ERA views and the resultant threat of withheld contributions. California pastor John MacArthur bit the bullet after his sermon stating women should not work outside the home, saying he had been misunderstood.

President Carter called religious leaders to a summit and urged them to back his economic and energy proposals. First Lady Rosalynn Carter placated "Year

of the Child" opponents by stressing the church's role in family rearing. The Ku Klux Klan boosted membership, marched and killed unfriendlies. The world's oldest profession made headlines with church leaders involved, and a New York radio station started a "John Hour," broadcasting names of those patronizing prostitutes. The number of unmarried couples living together doubled in the decade. Four Indiana teenagers faced reckless homicide charges following an Amish infant's death from a thrown stone, capping weeks of harassment of the Amish.

Homosexuality concerned the Church. Anita Bryant made magazine covers and "most admired" lists and opened a center for gays. The Methodists released contradicting studies on the place and rights of gays. Lesbians were appointed to leadership positions in several denominations. During the August 6 earthquake in California, fundamentalists broke into cheers at the Santa Clara county seat, proclaiming the quake God's wrath against homosexuals. Despite the "warning," the county board passed an ordinance granting rights to homosexuals, 4-1.

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- 6-10-79—Church Growth Pt. I
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- 6-17-79—Walking As He Walked
- 6-17-79—Teaching Ministry Of The Holy Spirit
- 6-24-79—Why Christians Suffer
- 6-24-79—Relation, Reservation, Revelation
- 7-1-79—Doubtful Christians
- 7-1-79—Seven Fruits Of Saving Faith
- 7-8-79—Satan's Sucker
- 7-8-79—Going To Heaven
- 7-15-79—Know-So Salvation
- 7-15-79—Discipleship
- 7-22-79—Salt

NEWSMAKERS AND EVENTS
The most publicized U.S. religious event was the visit of Pope John Paul II, playing to record crowds. Afterwards, some questioned who should pay for the \$10 million papal visit costs, and a reported Vatican cover-up of a financial scandal got lost in the shuffle.

The arms race drew the anxiety of various denominations and bodies. NAE supported limited arms control; thousands demonstrated against international arms exhibits, and clergy were arrested during nuclear and anti-war protests in Puerto Rico, Seabrook, N.H., and Rocky Flats, Colo.

Baptist Ukrainian minister Georgi Vins and four Soviet dissidents were released from Soviet prisons. Carl McIntire sued, lost a hotel in a fire, and told the Pope to stay away from Washington. Ditto Rev. Ian Paisley concerning Northern Ireland. The Dalai Lama visited the U.S. and invited everyone to Tibet.

Policeman/writer Al Palmquist lost his connection with the Minneapolis police department. The Wittenburg Door was threatened with (Continued on page 5, column 1)

SERMONS By MILBURN COCKRELL

- 8-5-79—The Cleansing Fountain
- 8-5-79—Attitude Toward Giving
- 8-12-79—Angels
- 8-19-79—Seeing The Invisible
- 8-19-79—The Great Apostasy
- 8-26-79—Departure From Faith
- 9-2-79—Infant Salvation
- 9-2-79—Heirs of God
- 9-9-79—Fence Straddlers
- 9-9-79—The Challenge
- 9-16-79—The Bible Is Right
- 9-16-79—The Rich Fool
- 9-23-79—Ministry Of Tears Pt. I
- 9-23-79—Ministry Of Tears Pt. II
- 9-30-79—Touch-Me-Nots
- 10-8-79—Tongues Pt. I
- 10-14-79—Tongues Pt. II

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- 10-5-75—The Parable Of The Pounds
- 10-12-75—Fruit Bearing
- 12-4-77—The Eternity Of God
- 1-8-78—The Love Of God
- 1-15-78—The Goodness Of God
- 1-22-78—The Veracity Of God
- 1-29-78—Loafers, Leisure Lovers, And Lazybones
- 2-5-78—The Spirituality Of God
- 2-12-78—An Everlasting Salvation
- 2-19-78—The Mercy Of God
- 2-26-78—The Independence Of God
- 3-5-78—The Justice Of God
- 3-12-78—The Unchangeable God
- 3-19-78—The Eternity Of God
- 3-26-78—The Longsuffering Of God
- 4-16-78—The Pale Horse
- 4-16-78—The Parable Of The Ten Virgins
- 5-14-78—Three Coming Events
- 5-21-78—The Generation Gap
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- 6-12-78—The Essentiality Of Baptism
- 6-18-78—Total Depravity
- 6-25-78—Unconditional Election
- 7-2-78—Irresistible Grace
- 7-9-78—A Study Of Gen. 3:15
- 7-16-78—The Voice Of Blood
- 7-23-78—A Good Name
- 8-6-78—The Passover Pt. 1
- 8-12-78—Christ Our Passover Pt. II
- 8-20-78—The Passover Pt. III
- 8-27-78—The Value Of A Friend
- 9-3-78—The Death Of The Righteous
- 9-19-78—Recognition In Heaven
- 9-17-78—Employment In Paradise
- 9-24-78—Employment In Heaven
- 10-1-78—Life After Life
- 10-8-78—Tricotomy Of Man
- 10-15-78—The Soul Of Man
- 11-5-78—A Faultless Multitude
- 11-12-78—The Sevenfold Unity
- 11-19-78—An Endless Life
- 11-26-78—What Happened To Sin?
- 12-10-78—Are You A Sinner?
- 12-17-78—The Doctrine Of Grace (By Jarrel Huffman)
- 12-24-78—The Rainmaker
- 12-31-78—The Biography Of Enoch
- 1-7-79—The Absurdity Of Apostasy
- 1-14-79—Holy Spirit Baptism
- 1-28-79—Simmer Down Before Sundown
- 2-4-79—Be Not Thou Envious
- 2-11-79—What God Hates
- 2-25-79—A Snake In A Bottle
- 3-4-79—Infant Sprinkling
- 3-11-79—Sexual Impurity Pt. I
- 3-18-79—Sexual Impurity Pt. II
- 3-25-79—When Gog Meets God Pt. I
- 4-1-79—When Gog Meets God Pt. II
- 4-8-79—Egypt In Prophecy
- 4-15-79—The Far East In Prophecy
- 4-22-79—The Revival Of The Roman Empire Pt. I
- 4-29-79—The Revival Of The Roman Empire Pt. II
- 5-6-79—Springtime In Glory
- 5-13-79—The Cities Of Refuge
- 5-20-79—The Actor Of Baptism
- 5-27-79—The Action In Baptism
- 6-3-79—The Aim Of Baptism
- 6-10-79—Baptismal Regeneration
- 6-17-79—Message By Berlin Hise
- 6-24-79—The Authority Of Baptism
- 7-1-79—The Destructiveness Of Sin
- 7-8-79—Message By Fred T. Haliman
- 7-15-79—God The Portion Of His People
- 7-22-79—Sovereign Grace
- 7-29-79—Fruits Of Love
- 8-5-79—Temperance In All Things
- 8-12-79—Hell Pt. I
- 8-19-79—Hell Pt. II
- 8-26-79—Hell Pt. III
- 9-2-79—The Speaking Blood
- 9-9-79—Numbering Our Days
- 9-16-79—Rapture Not Rapture Pt. I
- 9-23-79—Rapture Not Rapture Pt. II
- 8-26-79—Framer Of The Ages
- 10-7-79—Laying On Of Hands
- 10-14-79—On Top Of The World
- 10-21-79—The Church At Ephesus
- 10-28-79—The Church At Smyrna
- 11-4-79—The Church At Pergamos

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Seven Church Ages

(Continued from Page Two)
educated preachers, robbed choirs, good offerings and countless other material things. But there is an absence of spiritual blessings. Our quantity is good but our quality is bad. There is a growing indifference to Christ and His cause. All too many of our churches are boastful, self-sufficient and arrogant. They are blind to their real condition. Worldliness has permeated the churches until Christ has forsaken the assembly. Sad to say, most churches have never even missed the presence of Christ! This condition will wax worse and worse until the Rapture.

CONCLUSION

The church period interpretation of the seven churches of Asia Minor established beyond any reasonable doubt that Christ has preserved a succession of witnessing churches until this present hour and will until the Rapture. There was never a time even in the Dark Ages when the church needed to be reformed, refounded, reorganized, restarted or restored. Christ's church has been in the world under different names and found in different countries ever since He founded it during His personal ministry on earth. Are you a member of the church founded by Jesus Christ?



1979...

(Continued from page four)
another law suit, and the Doorkeepers begged not to be thrown into the briar patch. Houston short-stop Craig Reynolds was baseball's most valuable Christian. Karen Ann Quinlan turned 25 (four years in a coma) with Mass celebrated at her bedside. A Connecticut priest who loaned \$20,000 to 50 people last year with instructions to "multiply" — the money got \$2,000 back from five of them. Herbert W. and Garner Ted Armstrong sued each other. Death took Cardinal James Francis McIntyre and John Wayne, who became a Roman Catholic the day before he died.

BAPTIST EVENTS

The Southern Baptist Convention elected Adrian Rogers as their new president, only to discover this conservative promised no "witch hunt" of the liberal seminaries. At a meeting of the World Council of Churches at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Southern Baptists signed a docu-

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ment accepting the validity of infant baptism and rejecting repeated baptismal rites. A Baylor professor was the target of a "book-hunt." Bible conferences featured preaching, prayer and denunciations of liberalism, and a Georgia state newspaper editor came under fire for his "liberal" views. Southern Baptists and the Worldwide Church of God were unlikely bed-mates as the SBC backed Herbert W. Armstrong in his fight against state interrogation. Paula Clayton became the first SBC woman minister. Bourbon Street evangelist Bob Harrington continued to have financial and image problems.

The American Baptist Association experienced a year of strife and turmoil over Arminianism and Calvinism, which resulted in some leading men leaving the ABA as well as a few churches. The Baptist Missionary Association of America also experienced problems over Calvinism and the universal, invisible church heresy.

Within the ranks of Sovereign Grace Baptists some were hit by radical shifts in doctrinal positions. A battle is beginning to rage over the Baptist bride question. There continued to be a stir over the post-trib question as well as growing hardshellism. One Baptist school sent its students to work in an evangelistic crusade which featured a non-Baptist preacher. Another school had administrative difficulties which resulted in the loss of one of their best teachers.

The hottest controversy of 1979 was the priesthood of the Baptist church. The unrest was greatly increased by Elder Joe Bell's book, **GOD'S PRIESTHOOD ON EARTH**. Church papers have been discussing this book both pro and con. Some anti-priesthood men repented and embraced the New Light teachings. Presently, the battle lines are being drawn and things are warming up for a showdown. By the time the editor's new book, **SACREDOTALISM AND THE BAPTISTS**, comes off the press about January of 1980 the controversy will probably reach its peak.

The priesthood movement has driven our people into two extreme directions—both of which are very undesirable. Proponents of the New Light Movement set up a priestly caste in 1979 which consists of only those who "know the original languages, Theology, or Baptist History." They further asserted that all men who do not have these qualifications "should do the honest thing and disqualify themselves on controversial subjects because of their limitation."

This radical position was followed by an over-reaction on the part of some anti-priesthood men. At least one, who very foolishly wrote: "History concerning the Baptists is as reliable as the history of the American Revolution, which is to say that it is not reliable at all. . . . I place books on Baptist history in the same category as Catholic artifacts."

It seems that some want to make either too much or too little of Baptist history. They either must exalt it to a position of equal authority with the Bible, or join the liberals in calling our Baptist historians liars. Baptist history is important. It should be studied by all Baptists. It is far more reliable than secular history, as it was in the main written by God-fearing Baptist preachers. But Baptist history is not our infallible rule of faith and practice. The Bible, the inspired Word of God, is the only inerrant guide in faith and practice. To exalt Baptist history to the same level as the Holy Bible, inspired by God, is to say the writings of fallible men are as good as what God said. Our people must cease these extreme positions at once, for they are both wrong.

In 1979 there has appeared some more New Light which is coming from a different source than in former times. Here is a new example of it. Some say: "You cannot be a New Testament Baptist Church unless you use wine in the Lord's Supper." Still others contend: "Any church with a woman

Lord, Make Me A Winner Of Souls

MRS. FRANK PARRISH

Courtland, Virginia

*Lift up your eyes unto the fields,
See the harvest great, the laborers few;
Lord, send laborers to do Your will,
And bring lost sinners to You!*

*Oh Lord, I pray You will send the preacher,
For he is eloquent and knows what to say;
Or would You send the Sunday school teacher
Into Your harvest today?*

*Wait, My child, do you not remember?
My commission I gave to My church!
Of My church are you not a member?
Your duty are you trying to shirk?*

*Child, out there in the harvest field,
My sheep are waiting to be told;
To the gospel they will yield,
And come rejoicing into the fold!*

*My sheep will not perish if you do not bother
To tell them that I died for them;
But your reward will go to another,
The soul winner's crown you will fail to win!*

*Oh Lord, forgive me for shirking my duty,
And for my cold, indifferent heart;
I want to tell them of Your love and beauty,
And how, in salvation, they may have a part!*

*Lord, give me much love and compassion,
Make me wise and very bold;
Oh, may I go out with zeal and a passion,
To be a winner of souls!*

clerk is not a scriptural Baptist church." Other new views go like this: "Ordination to the ministry is not essential to the work of a Baptist minister;" "any church which is in an association or convention, or which supports a mission board, is no true church;" "you cannot be a post-tribbler and have a true church." The editor has very definite views in all these areas, but he would not make them a test of fellowship as some brethren are doing.

Calvary Baptist Church has experienced a very good year with a record crowd at our Thanksgiving Conference. Souls have been saved and new members added. In February of 1979 our book store and TBE office were moved to the church basement. The new facilities reach a record in sales of about \$40,000. Our missionary in New Guinea, Elder Fred T. Halliman, has opened new mission fields and organized more churches. Offerings to him and his wife have been good, totalling \$54,278.78. The Independent Baptist Hour added two new radio stations, WKNG in Memphis, Texas; and Radio Caroline near London, Eng. TBE gained some new support and lost some old supporters due to inflation and New Lightism. The number of our subscribers continues to hold its own with an increase in renewals. Offerings to TBE for 1979 totalled \$74,131.67 as of December 13 and will probably go over \$75,000 for the year. Our sale of sermon tapes has escalated under the capable hands of Bro. Kimm Zamarron.

The "Worst Preacher of the Year Award" goes to Ayatollah Khomeini, for being the worst impersonation of a holy man since the Dark Ages.

Without The Gate

Continued from page one,
own blood, suffered without the gate." We must look for a moment or two at the Ceremonial or Levitical Law. I feel assured that all was commanded to be done under the ceremonial law, was to meet in Jesus Christ the great sacrificial atonement. God gave the law to Moses.

Cain acknowledged Jehovah as a God of Providence, by bringing the fruits of the earth. So, every

man is in duty bound to give thanks to Him as a God of Providence. Abel brought the firstlings of a flock; I believe a lamb! God accepted both Abel and his sacrifice. I have no doubt in my mind, but that some knowledge had been communicated to those brothers by their parents of what they had done, for God had driven them out of the garden, and not only so, but I believe that God Himself was pleased to institute it for them, because we find there was a difference made between one sacrifice and the other. One sacrifice that was brought was the fruit of the earth, and the other sacrifice was a lamb slain, or rather the firstling of the flock.

What were these sacrifices brought for? there must have been some knowledge of their offending to their Maker, and that they were required to make some expiation for their wrong, consequently, God divides between that which has no faith in it, and that which has a living faith in it. One brought the fruit of the land, which springs forth out of the earth. But here is a lamb, or the firstling of the flock, brought by Abel.

Now to prove that this was God's institution, Paul has spoken of it, and says, "Abel, offered a

more acceptable sacrifice than Cain." Christ Himself, speaking of Abel's sacrifice says, "Righteous Abel," showing that he was a righteous man. He could not have been righteous in any other way than by faith in Christ.

Christ charges the Pharisees with slaying the Prophets, even from the righteous Abel, down to the Prophet Zechariah. It is recorded that God accepted Abel and his sacrifice. Paul said, by faith, Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts, and by it he being dead, yet speaketh.

Again, we might go further and show that it was of God's institution. We find that God gave a promise to Abraham, and He gave him a son, and the Lord said to him, "Take thy son, thine only son," upon Mount Moriah, that was the very place where God intended the temple should be built, where they should worship Him. Abraham took his son at God's command and it is of little consequence to me what men say regarding Isaac, when I have God's Word on my side. It is declared he took his son, his only son, Isaac; and Isaac carried the wood, and I believe that sets forth the cross that Christ was to carry, and I believe Abraham, his father, with the knife, was a type of God the Father, in His divine justice, the sword of justice was to be sheathed in the Redeemer.

The prophet said, "Awake! O sword! smite the shepherd, the man that is my fellow, saith the Lord of Hosts." I am sure of one thing, viz., the apostle Paul speaking of Isaac, said, "By faith Abraham offered Isaac," and God received him in a figure. I believe he saw Jesus Christ, by the eye of faith. But you will say, Isaac escaped, and the ram was caught in the thicket. I believe no type can come up to Christ to the full. God could not receive the human blood of Isaac, but he accepted the figure, for the angel said, "Stay thine hand, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me." I believe that was the angel of the everlasting covenant, or it would have been idolatry to have offered him to a created angel. The ram caught in the thicket, I believe was to set forth the sacrifices under the law, until Christ should die.

And now we must come for a moment or two to the Ceremonial Law and see how particular God was in giving instructions to Moses respecting these sacrifices—they were to be clean, they were to be without blemish. Now, poor sinner, what a mercy it is for you and me to know something about this blessed sacrifice, "Christ without a blemish." But, notice it is said, that "every man that brought his sacrifice," it was to (Continued on page 6, column 1)

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Without The Gate

(Continued from page 5)

he his own sacrifice that he brought, and when he brought it, it was slain at the door of the tabernacle; and hand of the priest was to be put upon, confessed over it. Surely God did institute these things to point out a precious Christ. Christ said, "I am the door, by me the sheep enter in." Christ said, "I lay down my life for the sheep." God's Word must stand where it says, "My sheep know my voice and they follow me." Who are they that follow Jesus Christ? Those who are born again, others cannot see the kingdom of Heaven.

Oh! the delusions of the day in which we live — Ministers telling dead people to believe in Jesus Christ. Paul says, "Ye who were dead in trespasses and sin, hath he quickened." How can a man believe unless he is quickened from the dead. The voice which will raise the dead at the last day, must speak in the heart of a man that is dead in trespasses and sins, before he can believe. Those alone are the persons who follow him. Tens of thousands are persuaded into a religion who were brought up in it from their cradle, and they are admitted into churches, but who were never regenerated.

Those who are born again, are galled sheep, and they follow their Lord through sheer necessity. God's Word has entered their consciences, and they are brought to feel and know they are sinners in the sight of a Holy God, and they are brought like the poor Publican to cry, "God be merciful to me a sinner." Now these are they that follow the Lord Jesus Christ through evil report and good report.

Christ is set forth here by the apostle as "Going forth without the gate." What are we to understand by them, that every man dwells in himself, and he will never come out of himself, until he is driven out, and therefore he will have to be driven out of self by the Son of God, by the hand of the blessed Spirit. When this is done, that man will stand before the all-scrutinizing eye of God as a guilty wretch. Paul says, "The law must be fulfilled to the very letter, or we must be lost to a man." The apostle was deceived, when he was hauling men and women to prison, he thought he was doing God a service; but when the commandment came, sin revived and he died. God's law in all its spirituality showed him that he was a sinner in God's sight, and that he had been hauling those to prison whom God loved. "He persecuted the church of God."

Ah! all he learned at the feet of Gamaliel, never taught him "that the law was a schoolmaster to bring him to Christ." Oh! poor sinner, we can never know anything of Jesus Christ till the law is charged home to the conscience, then that poor sinner will have to follow Jesus Christ, the Law Fulfiler. "Wherefore Jesus also, that

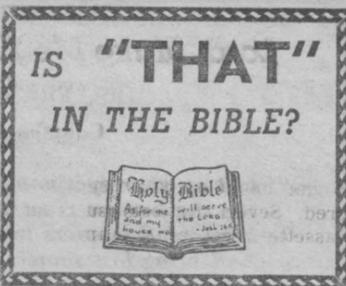
he might sanctify the people." Now the blood of Christ sanctifies, cleanses, and purifies; Paul says, "If the blood of bulls and goats, and ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean sanctifies to the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God," purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

What a union is brought about through sanctification. Paul saith, "Both He that sanctifieth and they that are sanctified are one, for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren," sanctified in Christ Jesus, sanctified by God the Father and by the Holy Spirit. What a wonderful thing it is to be sanctified by the Spirit of God, then if I am sanctified, can I really bear a testimony of Jesus Christ, who is the sanctifier of His people. Oh! what wonders here, a poor guilty wretch deserving Hell is sanctified, that is made holy without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing, all these sanctified ones the apostle speaks of in a wonderful way, he says they are justified freely from all things, from which they could not be by the law of Moses.

Then he said, who is he that condemneth, it is God that justified. Why, poor sinner, the debt is paid. O! says the poor sinner, that word sanctified, made Holy, that is the greatest trial I have to know if I am one of the sanctified ones. I say to thee, if sin is a grief to thee and thy heart mourns because of thy holiness, and because thou feelest thyself such a sinner, thou wilt go to Heaven. The apostle said, "O! wretched man that I am, who should deliver me from the body of this death, and when I would do good evil is present with me" You see it is said, "that which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the spirit is spirit."

The Devil will try to make you believe that your flesh must be made holy. Don't make a mistake here, friends; I don't want you to think I hold out a license to live in sin. I mean this: that our flesh is still the same, but grace reigns over and above it, therefore I understand the apostle to mean, that grace shall triumph, when he says, "Sin shall not have dominion over you, for ye are not under the law, but under grace." Now, as long as there is an opposition in your souls, and you grieve on account of the sin, that dwells in you, that is an evident sign that the life of God is in your souls, and that sin shall not have dominion over you. But many of the Lord's dear people after their sins have been pardoned, have fallen under temptation, of the enemy. There will be no deliverance from this state, only as the blood of atonement is applied again to your souls.

Again, "He must sanctify the people, and He must suffer without the gates." You must tread the path of your Lord and Master in some measure. He says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."



Question.

WHOSE CHILD SNEEZED SEVEN TIMES?

Answer: — The Shunammite woman's son, Second Kings 4:32-36. — "And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed. He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the Lord. And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands; and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm. Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him; and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son."

Let us follow the Lord, for we are to suffer reproach. He went without the gates to suffer. If the Lord has called you by His grace, you will declare that it was the spirit that quickened your soul into life. Also, you will bear witness to this truth, that there is no other way to be saved but by the blood and righteousness of the dear Redeemer.

When the Scribes and Pharisees came to the Lord Jesus Christ, they could not receive His doctrine; and just so it is now with all blind guides, they believe that the gospel cannot be preached without a man is sent to some college, to obtain human wisdom, but what did all the learning of the Scribes and Pharisees do? Why they had learning enough to destroy the salvation of your soul if they could, they had learning enough to sit in Moses's seat, and Christ would not be their judge. He said Moses would judge them in whom they trusted, but Jesus Christ came forth into this world, was made under the law and magnified the law, and made it honorable for His people.

We have sinned; we all fell in Adam. Now Jesus Christ, the Son of God, existed from all eternity, co-equal, co-eternal with the Father, and loved His people with an everlasting love. In time these people are called by the Holy Spirit, and then they follow their Lord. The Lord Jesus Christ wrought a miracle that staggered the Pharisees. He passed by and saw a man blind from his birth, and He spat on the ground and made clay, and put the clay upon his eyes, and said, "Go; wash in the pool of Siloam, being interpreted sent." Now the man went, and he came back seeing; now, though there was an ocular demonstration before the eyes of the Pharisees that a miracle was wrought, such as was never wrought before.

That miracle raised enmity and malice in their hearts, and they told the man whose eyes had been opened to give God the praise, as for this fellow they said, we know not from whence He is. The man answered and said to them, why herein is a marvelous thing, that ye know not from whence He is, and yet He hath opened mine eyes. Why did Christ perform that miracle upon a blind man? Why, to show that every man is born into the world blind, and that none can open the eyes of the blind but God Himself.

(Continued on page 8, column 1)

The Lord's Church

(Continued from Page Three)

much Catholicism that they unwittingly set forth other ways of salvation that are completely foreign to grace. Many years ago I heard a big name Baptist evangelist say in a large Baptist church about a mile and a half from me that he and God had an agreement between them. He said that God agreed that if we would stand for Him down here He would stand for us up there. He then told everyone who wanted to be saved to stand up. I know where God says through Paul that we are saved by grace. But I have no idea where God says He will save us if we will stand up. Are the far-out ways of salvation set forth by the Catholic church any greater abomination in the sight of Almighty God than the one set forth by that so-called Baptist preacher? I think not. The thing that made it all the worse, the pastor of that large Baptist church said "amen" to that far-out way of salvation at least a half dozen times by the time you could say "jack rabbit."

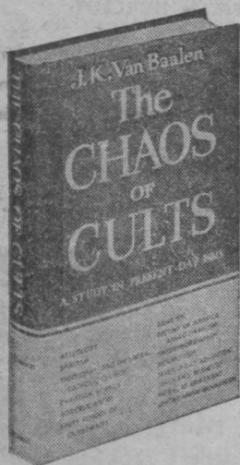
In years gone by I enjoyed the message brought by a preacher in California by the name of Fuller on radio. But he would always ruin his message with his invitation in which he would tell lost sinners to kneel where they were and repeat the publican's prayer. I know of no place in the precious Scriptures where the lost are told to pray and be saved. Other preachers will tell the lost sinner to open his heart and let Jesus come in. But in Acts 16:14 God opened Lydia's heart in order that she might understand what Paul was preaching. Still others urge the lost to give their heart to God, but God is not operating a repair shop. In Ezekiel 36:26 He says, "A new heart also will I give you." After He gives the new heart He says in Proverbs 23:26, "My son, give me thine heart." He does not want that old deceitful and desperately wicked heart (Jer. 17:9).

Then we hear much about accepting Christ, but He is not offered to the lost. In John 10:28 He says, "I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish." There is just no such thing as Christ offering salvation to a lost person and that person refusing to take it. If anyone could do that, Saul of Tarsus is one person who would have refused it. He was, no doubt, the greatest enemy our Lord ever had in mortal flesh, but when that eternal life was given to him, we hear him saying in Acts 9:6, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" In our day we hear so much among Baptist preachers about making a decision for Christ. These preachers are prone to return from a so-called revival boasting about how many decisions were made. If Christ had waited for Saul of Tarsus to decide to be saved, poor old Paul would be roasting in hell today. There is absolutely nothing in the Bible that I know of, about a lost person deciding to be saved. All the great host of false ways of salvation that we find out in left field have been a great help to old Satan in the matter of sowing his tares, even in Baptist churches. According to the type found in Gideon's army in Judges 6 and 7, more than two-thirds of the people who have their names on a church roll are just plain old tares, ready to be bound into bundles and burned. But woe to the Baptist church that throws the door wide open and entices the tares to come in, and a double woe on the pastor of that church. When worldly people (tares) are brought into the church, it becomes necessary to drag the world into the church to keep them happy. The late Brother Hugh L. Tully used to say the churches are becoming so worldly, and the world is becoming so churchy, it is hard to tell them apart.

All this reminds us of the mixed multitude that came out of Egypt with the children of Israel (Ex. 12:38). At first it seemed that these children of Israel had done pretty well in that they made so many converts. But in Numbers 11:4 we see them lusting, and we learn that they were lusting after the flesh pots of Egypt. The lusting of the mixed multitude would not have been worthy of mention had it not been that their lusting caused the Lord's people to begin seeing how dry that old manna was. The manna was a type of God's Word. How many Baptist churches of our day will gladly sit from Sunday to Sunday listening to nothing but the precious Word? The mixed multitudes (tares) among them lusts for the things of the world, and very soon we see the world moving in. It is called banquets, ball games, sewing rooms, and just about everything to take the place of that old dry manna (the precious Word).

We have been discussing the false ways of salvation found on the left side of the true way. Now let us see what we can find on the right side. False ways are not so plentiful on the right, but there is one that should be noticed. On the left we see so many bloodless ways of salvation. On the right we see one we might very well call the Wordless way. This way of salvation leaves God's Word completely out. The reason for their leaving the Word out of salvation is, that they see man's inability, but not God's ability. Lazarus who had been dead for four days was unable to do anything at all whatever until God spoke directly to him, and the Holy Spirit made it effective. Our Lord could have brought him out of that tomb in any way He chose, but He chose to use His Word. He could save the lost in any way He wanted to do it, but He has chosen to use His Word. That

(Continued on page 8, columns 4, 5)



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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

JANUARY 12, 1980

PAGE SIX

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

A number of books and periodicals have been brought to my attention in recent weeks which claim a giant computer in Brussels is the "Beast" mentioned in Revelation 13. It is true that there does exist such a computer which is designed to assign each citizen of the world a number to be used in all buying and selling . . . a number invisibly laser-tattooed on the forehead or back of the hand!

I do not doubt that the Antichrist may use such a computer in his control of world affairs, but I do not believe the Antichrist is a machine or a religious system. In II Thessalonians 2:3 he is called "that MAN of sin." His number (666) is called "the number of a MAN" (Rev. 13:18). The final Antichrist is referred to in the Bible by personal pronouns and personal acts are ascribed to him.

Before we take an extreme position on a big computer being the final Antichrist we had best bear in mind that a \$30-million master computer is now being built in St. Louis to serve all U.S. banks.

VIENNA, Austria (EP) — The Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren, Czechoslovakia's largest Protestant group, is badly demoralized because of an effectual control of its clerical leadership by the country's Communist government. Many ministers have lost the right to carry out their duties and new graduates of the state-controlled theological school are often denied ordination.

Church attendance and other activities in rural areas are very small. In the anonymity of the cities and especially Prague, more persons including young adults attend worship but often in districts removed from their residence. This picture emerges from interviews with West European Christians who have visited in the last weeks in Czechoslovakia.

The Charta is the group protesting the abuse of civil rights in Czechoslovakia and providing aid for families of persons imprisoned. Several of its members were recently jailed, an action which resulted in protests and the cancellation of official visits from the leaders of several Western countries.

There are no official statistics published concerning church membership in Czechoslovakia but unofficial reports are that the Church of the Czech Brethren has lost about 50,000 members in the last few years and now has about 300,000 on its rolls. In all, Protestants are estimated to number about 1.2 million in Czechoslovakia, which has a total population of 15 million. The great majority, 11.5 million, are, at least nominally, Roman Catholic.

Wilfred Burchett, 68, an Australian Communist Party member who directed the torture and interrogation of American POWs in the Korean and Vietnam wars, has again been allowed to enter the U.S. on a temporary visa to "lecture" and to attend business meetings concerning a book he is writing. (SPOTLIGHT, 12-17-79).

It was recently discovered that there were no Bibles in Jonestown, Guyana; the sight of the Jonestown massacre. How sad to think that so many people who thought they had peace, died without any hope of eternal life. (BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH BULLETIN, 12-9-79).

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention challenged the requests of messengers from three churches to be seated because of their alleged practices of open communion and accepting persons baptized by immersion in another denomination for church membership.

The three churches questioned were Russellville First Baptist, Hot Springs First Baptist and Van-

derbilt Avenue Baptist in West Memphis. After being rebuked for such practices the three churches in question were all seated.

Women played an important role in the 144th annual meeting of the Baptist Convention of Maryland leading in prayer at the opening of all sessions. Alma Hunt, retired director of the Women's Missionary Union, conducted opening devotions for each session.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party, U.S.A., designates longtime party boss Gus Hall as its presidential candidate in 1980 and black revolutionary Angela Davis as his vice presidential running mate. Hall got 58,992 votes in 19 states in 1976.

The holding of hostages in the U.S. Embassy by the Iranians is a major problem to our present administration in Washington. Certainly I believe that peaceful means should be used to secure their release. However, if the hostages are tried and executed as spies I believe this country must consider that an act of war against this republic. We cannot allow the murder of citizens of America to go unavenged. To do so is to make America the laughing stock of the world.

Does anyone recall what our former U.N. Ambassador said about Ayatollah? Perhaps some have forgotten the words of Andrew Young a United Church of Christ preacher and a former employee of the National Council of Churches. Young said that Ayatollah "will be some kind of a saint when we finally get over the panic of what is happening in Iran." It appears Mr. Young's idea of a saint is foreign to the teachings of the New Testament and the understanding of all God-fearing people of all races.

KAUB/WIESBADEN, West Germany (EP) — The growing self-confidence of Moslems all over the world is leading to increased discrimination against and oppression of Christians and Jews in mainly Islamic countries. This was reported by Willi Hopfner, the executive secretary of the Orient Service, and evangelical mission working among Moslems, at a Conference on Islam organized by the mission last weekend here.

Mr. Hopfner drew attention to the restriction and prohibitions of missionary activity in Asia and Africa. A revolutionary committee had, for example, occupied a home for the blind which was run by the Christoffal Mission to the Blind (CBM) in the Iranian town of Isfahan. According to Mr. Hopfner, the Red Sea Missionary Team has had to close down its work in North Yemen, and the North African Mission has had to do the same in Algeria. Hopfner also reminded his listeners of the discrimination against Christian minorities in Turkey, which recently received heavy criticism from the Lutheran World Federation and the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Constantinople.

Mr. Hopfner commented that simultaneously to their repression of Christian activities, Moslems had stepped up their own missionary outreach. There are attempts being made to unite the national Moslem missionary organizations and to train Islam missionaries in specialized subjects. Three million copies of the Koran are to be distributed free of charge to Moslem communities in Europe. The Moslem world population is estimated at 701 million.

LONDON (EP) — A sharp increase in persecution in the Soviet Socialist Republic of Moldavia is reported by East-West News Serv-

ice. On October 21 two Christians, Misha Prutyayov and Veniamin Naprienko, went to visit a friend in Kishinev and were followed and beaten by secret police.

The militia was under the impression that a secret meeting of Soviet believers had been uncovered. Several objects such as a cassette recorder, a camera, religious literature, and other items were confiscated. Misha Prutyayov was arrested. A home was also searched in nearby Strasheni, where religious books from the underground press Christianin were being bound, according to the news service. Several homemade binding machines and some religious literature were seized.

SOFIA, Bulgaria (EP) — Five pastors and lay workers of Bulgarian pentecostal churches were given relatively heavy prison sentences and fined in a trial at the end of October. This news recently reached the "Light in the East" missionary society in Kornal near Stuttgart, West Germany.

Bulgarian Christians suspect that this action is part of a "well-planned campaign to eliminate the local churches and a reaction to the growing religious activities of the Christians." Two hundred persons appeared at the trial in Sofia as witnesses for the prosecution. This was also evaluated as a further indication of the "State's nervousness."

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27 — Governor Jerry Brown of California campaigns in a homosexual disco bar tonight and promises to work for a "new age" in politics in which people can participate "whatever their sexual orientation." Speaking of a fund-raiser sponsored by Gay Vote U.S.A., Brown says that "I perceive it to be my role to drive a dialogue in my party on a number of issues . . . on the rights of gay and Lesbian people. I intend to vigorously challenge attitudes I think are anachronistic."

Also appearing were an aide to President Carter, who was heckled, and a representative of Senator Edward Kennedy, who read a letter from the Massachusetts Democrat expressing support for the homosexual cause. None of the 10 Republican presidential candidates invited appeared at the fund-raiser or sent a representative (THE REVIEW OF THE NEWS, 12-12-79).

True To God . . .

(Continued from page one)

When these three men refused to bow to the idol, they were brought before the king. He offered them a second chance to save their lives by bowing to the image. He warned them that if they did not bow, they would immediately be cast into the fiery furnace. He blasphemously said, "And who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?" He soon found out. To this the three made the reply of our text. Surely, in all the range of literature there are no more brave and noble words than these. Oh that every child of God would be so determined in being true to God.

What was back of such courage? Surely, there was first of all, the experience of the saving grace of God. There was real and true faith. Note also that these men believed in the absolute sovereignty of God over all things. They saw the king sitting on the throne, but oh, they saw another king sitting on another throne. They lifted up their eyes and saw the One from whom their help came. They saw their God and believed that He had absolute control over king Nebuchadnezzar and over all things. They knew that if it pleased the Lord that He could deliver them from the burning fiery furnace. They knew that if they died in that furnace, it would be the sweet and blessed will of God for their lives. It is faith like this which produces men of

martyr character.

Further, these men believed in the complete and eternal deliverance of God's people from all their enemies. They did not know if they would die in the furnace or not, but they knew that either way, they would be delivered out of the king's hand. And, really, if we believe the Bible, is not death a better deliverance from all the problems and persecutions of this life than any other deliverance? Now note the brave and noble statement of the text. There was no quibbling, no dialogue with the enemy, no seeking of a lesser deliverance than the will of God. They said: "God is able to deliver us from the furnace. He is able to preserve us in the furnace. We do not know what His will is. We may die in the furnace. But, be that as it may, we will not bow to, worship, or serve thy idol god." Well, we know the results. The Son of God came down and walked with them in the fiery furnace. They felt no pain. They suffered no hurt. What a blessed time of fellowship with the dear son of God. And is it not often the case that when we are in the fire, we feel more truly the presence and power of the Son of God? And have we not experienced much of the sweetest of fellowship with Him while in some of the most difficult times of our lives? Then they were brought out of the furnace. And their faithfulness became a great testimony to the reality and the power of the one true God of the Bible. Now to the subject.

What do we mean by "True to God: no matter what"? We mean that we are going to do what is right and what God tells us to do no matter what. We are going to do this in our life. We are going to live by and according to the Bible. We are going to be clean and separated to God and endeavor, by the enabling of the Holy Spirit to live by the Book. We are going to be true to God in our service. We are going to serve Him in His church to the utmost of our ability. We are going to be obedient to our God no matter what. That is what we mean. Let me illustrate.

God could give us everything we could ever think of wanting in this life and make it easy for us. We could have the best of health and feel good all the time. We could have all the money we could ever think of using. But if God does not do this for us, we are going to be true to God anyhow. God could subdue the desires of the flesh, could even remove the old nature as the holy roller heretics teach, could defeat the devil, could take away all temptation. God could make us all super giants so that there would be no difficulty in serving God. But if He does not, we are going to be true to God anyhow.

God could make all the conditions and situations in our life to be easy, pleasant and conducive to holy living. Oh, we would be surprised, if we would examine the situation, how often we excuse our failures by our condition or situation. If anyone ever had a "situation" excuse for failure to be true to God, surely the men in our text had that excuse. Say, friend, when was the last time you faced the situation that you must disobey God or die a violent physical death immediately? You fail God. You do that which you know is contrary to God's Word. You do not do that which you know you should do. And you make excuses relative to your condition or situation. But you don't know what a hard situation is. We have not yet resisted to blood striving against sin, have we? God could take away all persecution. Remember that night in Egypt when not even a dog moved his tongue against Israel? God could do that again and none would dare to perform an act or even speak a word against God's people. But if God does not do these things for us we are going to be true to God: no matter what.

Now why does God not do these

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things for us if He can. Oh, what a temptation it has often been to the children of God. That God in the exercise of His sovereign control over all things, often places His children in the most trying of circumstances, and does not do for them what He could easily do in delivering them. We must, in all these matters, bow to the sovereignty of God. Oh, the sovereignty of God, what a wonderful doctrine it is and how precious to our souls. But, dear friend, this doctrine is often easier to say we believe and to preach than it is to practice. It is easy to talk about God's sovereignty when the sun is shining and everything is going well. But when the storms come, and when things are hard, and when we face the fiery furnace, then it is sometimes difficult to just believe and rest in and act according to the Sovereignty of God. Oh, let us wrap our faith around this glorious truth, let us stand upon this rock, and let us draw from this precious doctrine the strength that will enable us to be true to God: no matter what, for we know that it is all according to His sovereign will for our lives.

Now let me define our subject again. "True to God: no matter what" means that I will be true to God and will do what He tells me to, do no matter what it is. I will not pick and choose which of His commands I will obey. But will just do whatever He makes known to me that I should do. No matter what it is: No matter what the opposition might be. No matter who might oppose. Though the most dear of earthly friends shall set themselves against me and seek to induce me from the path of obedience to my God, still will I be true to God. No matter what the consequences of obedience might be and no matter what might happen to me as a result thereof; I will be true to God no matter what. Now this is the highest demand God could ever make of a mortal being. No more could ever be asked. But then, too, God can ask no less and still be God. It is essential to the very nature of God that He demand absolute obedience in all things.

True to God: no matter what is (Continued on page 8, column 4)

Don't preach too long. I have always found it better to leave your congregation "longing" than "loathing."

TUNE IN TO
THE INDEPENDENT BAPTIST HOUR

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WCAK, Catsbrg., Ky.	Sun.— 8:30-9:00 a.m.	92.7	3000 FM
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WFTA, Fulton, Miss.	Sun.— 1:00-1:30 p.m.	101.7	3000 FM
KAWS, Hemphill, Tex.	Sun.— 7:30-8:00 a.m.	1530	1000 AM
*KHYM, Gilmer, Tex.	Sun.— 1:00-1:30 p.m.	1060	10000 AM
*WYRD, Syracuse, N.Y.	Sun.— 12:30-1:00 p.m.	1540	1000 AM
*WKNG, Tallap'sa, Ga.	Sun.— 8:00-8:30 a.m.	1060	2500 AM
Radio Caroline (Near London, Eng.)	Mon.— 6:30-7:00 p.m.	962 ¹	50000 AM (English time)
*Clear Channel	*319 metres		

him, "which endured such contradiction of sinners against himself." Paul directs us to the great pacific of salvation, lest "ye be wearied and faint in your minds." What a mercy it is for you and me that we can bear a testimony that we are going forth without the camp. Christ was called a devil and shall the servant be above his Lord? He was called "Beelzebub," and they will call you the same if you go forth against the miserable lying doctrines, that puts the power upon the creature instead of the Creator. Are you going forth from such?

God declares He has saved His people with an everlasting salvation. God will make you a witness of the free grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now Christ came to do good; He cured all manner of sickness and disease, but here is the delusion of many: they believe this was all spiritual work in the soul, you have only to see the one proof, did not Christ cleanse ten lepers? but only one came to give glory to God. If God is pleased to work miracles upon men, it is no proof that those men are partakers of divine grace. Jesus Christ came into this world to suffer, bleed, and die, the just for the unjust for His own people.

Let us go forth without the camp, bearing reproach. Hear what the Lord says: "Wist ye not that I must be about my father's business?" What was that business? It was to seal that covenant He entered into with his Father, with His own most precious blood. So He suffered, bled, and died for every one that was given to Him in covenant. God declares that not a hoof shall be left behind. What did Christ get for all His kindness? He was counted as not worthy, because He declared what His work was—to die for the sheep and not for the goats; and all the free-will of professing Arminians and Brethrenism, with all their progressive sanctification, and all the exalting of the flesh, they are but rebels against God's sovereignty, and will, if grace prevent not, at least be found in the hands of Divine justice without a mediator.

What will you find in them but the same spirit that was in the Scribes and Pharisees: when you bear a testimony of the regenerating work of God upon your soul, and of the efficacy of the-cleansing blood of Jesus Christ to you as a poor lost sinner; they will gnash upon you with their teeth, and what is the reason? It is because their religion stands in the flesh, they tell you to exercise faith. What power has a man to exercise faith? God's Word says: "Faith is the gift of God, the operations of the Blessed Spirit." We need not wonder at their exercising their faith, because it is of their own manufacturing, and not the faith of God's elect. They are just in the state in which they were born into the world, and know nothing of the temptations of the enemy.

Jeremiah was reproached, and you will find the prophet Isaiah speaks of the children of God being reproached, but oh! what does it signify? The Lord says, "Fear not man's reproaches and revilings, behold! I am with thee, they are as a moth." Poor sinner, Jesus Christ suffered and was led before Pilate, and after the sentence of death was passed upon Him, He was not counted worthy to suffer in the city of Jerusalem, therefore they took Him out of the city. We may well say with the poet:

"What object's this which meets my sight,
Without Jerusalem's gates,
Which fills my mind with such surprise,
As wonder to create."

Let us go forth without the camp, bearing His reproach; never mind the reproach of the world. The apostle Peter tells us that we

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The Lord's Church

(Continued from Page Six)

is why He said in Mark 16:15, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." There are those who are interested only in feeding the sheep. But I ask them in the spirit of love, Was our Lord saying here to feed the sheep, or was He saying preach the gospel to everybody in order that the Holy Spirit might take that preached Word and use it to bring the lost sheep into the fold?

Just as our Lord used His Word to impart life in Lazarus, so the Holy Spirit uses the Word to impart spiritual life in the lost sheep. In Psalm 119:50 David said, "This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy Word hath quickened me." In verse 93 he said, "I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me." Our Hardshell brethren, affiliated and unaffiliated, would have to tell David, "You are mistaken about that, because God does not use His Word in quickening the lost." In I Peter 1:23 Peter said, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." Other references could be given, but if a person will not believe these he would not believe the others.

So, if we veer either to the right, or to the left of that strait and narrow way, we get on the other fellow's territory. Our dear Lord does not want His people messing around on that fellow's territory. The old devil has so many of the Lord's people thinking the only way to witness to the lost is by telling them what they must do, but our Lord says, "Preach the gospel to every creature." There is no gospel in what man can do. So tell them what Christ has done, and leave the results with Him.

are to suffer afflictions, and that, with the trial of your faith, which is more precious than gold which perisheth.

Faith in the bleeding Lamb! "O what a gift is this." A word or two more; the High Priest, under the law, took blood into the holy place once a year for his own sin. Paul says: "We have an altar whereof they have no right to eat who serve the tabernacles." What was really the altar, was it the cross? Certainly not; Roman Catholics worship that piece of wood. What was the altar? I believe the deity of the Son of God supporting His humanity, till the work of Salvation was completed, and blessed be His dear name, He finished the work and brought in everlasting righteousness. Jesus Christ, without the gate, poor sinner, the blood He shed was to pay thy debts and set thee free. His last words were: "It is finished," and the veil of the temple was rent from the top to the bottom, and the new and living way opened for every poor sinner that feels the burden of sin and his need of God's salvation.

I intend taking up this subject again tonight, and show the reproaches of Christ and His people. May God command a blessing and His name shall have the praise. Amen.

(Editor's note: This sermon was preached by Elder Munns at the Beulah Baptist Chapel, near Edgware Road, London, England, Sunday morning, Feb. 2, 1879).

True To God . . .

(Continued from page 7)
the greatest virtue a believer can ever have. This is the highest demand of God and the highest virtue and response of the believer. We are not called upon to be great and successful in the eyes of men. But just to be true to God and leave all the rest with Him. We can never climb higher than this. We can never improve on this. Oh my brother, my sister; just be true to God no matter what. Then this is the life attitude that brings the greatest peace, joy, and inward blessedness to the believer. Dear friend, disobedience brings its own punishment to the soul. The believer cannot have that deep and

abiding sense of joy and blessing in his soul while he is disobedient to the Lord. If you would know the greatest happiness one can know in this life, the subject of this article is a prescription that will guarantee this unto you. Then in the matter of being a blessing to others by one's testimony and influence is wrapped up in my subject. Suppose the three heroes of that day had bowed to the idol God. Then suppose that next day they had gone to the king or to some of their friends and sought to testify to the God of Israel and told the blessedness of serving the one True God. Suppose they had urged upon their friends that they should worship and serve the God of Israel. Of what use and what power and what success would such testimony have been? Would not their failure of the previous day—their bowing to the image in fear for their lives, would not this have robbed their testimony of all its power, and would not those to whom they testified have mocked at their witness? And is it not true that our failures to be true to God in our daily lives is the source of the weakness and failure in our own witness?

Now let us look into the future. Let us look to the judgment seat of Christ, when we who are saved shall be judged as to our lives and service since God saved us. In that great and solemn hour, how will all our excuses appear? Will it not be that "True to God: no matter what" will bring the greatest rewards in that day? Oh, how differently things will appear in the light that beams from that time and place. How unimportant will things then appear which seemed so valuable to us in this life. How weak and insipid will all our excuses then appear. Then the only thing that will seem important is being true to God no matter what. And it will be the times of our lives when we lived by that principle which will bring great and wonderful rewards. Oh, dear friend, let us pay attention to this story of three men who put God first in their lives, and to the results of such, and let us ask God to help us to make this the pattern by which we will live, and let us ask God for power to live by the standard of "True to God: no matter what." May God bless you all.

Without The Gate

(Continued from page six)

When John was cast into prison, he sent a messenger to ask Christ whether he was the Messiah. The message that Christ sent back was from the prophecy of Isaiah, "The blind see, the lame walk, the dead are raised, and to the poor the gospel is preached." That the Scriptures might be fulfilled, they took off John's head, and we hear no more of him who was prophesied of hundreds of years before he came.

I ask you, are you followers of Christ? Yes; say you, we hope we are. I believe Christ gives unto His sheep eternal life, and that none shall pluck them out of His hands. I feel that I am a poor, lost, and ruined sinner, and that I have no power whatever to keep alive my soul. My dependence is entirely upon Him, I feel that Christ will never give up one of His sheep, or I must be lost for ever. Such poor sinners enter into the flood and cast their anchor in Christ the Son of God.

Christ took our nature into union with His Godhead, and in that nature He suffered, bled and died, the just for the unjust, this was the sacrifice, body and soul for the church, which He purchased with His own heart's blood; here is a marriage union, and there was no

other way whereby God could clear poor guilty sinners, but through Jesus Christ. The sword of divine justice was sheathed in the dear Redeemer, and God the Father received divine satisfaction at the hands of Christ.

Notice what Christ says of this people: "Father, thine they were, and thou gavest them to me." Those were given to Christ before the foundation of the world; and He is spoken of as the Lamb slain before the Maker of the world, and says all things are upheld by Him. We see this precious Christ was Lord of lords, King of kings, and only Ruler of princes. He was the Maker of the world, and we see Him coming into this world as the Word of God declares as the "river of the water of life," proceeding from the throne of God and the Lamb to reach poor lost ruined sinners. Notice, it proceedeth from the Throne of God and the Lamb, and He says I will be in you (the Church of God) a well of water springing up into everlasting life. Now let us go forth and bear a testimony of the life-giving power of God in our souls, let us bear the testimony of His love, blood, and mercy. Let us go forth out of the camp; I understand this to imply going forth from an ungodly world as a light set upon a hill that cannot be hid.

Paul knew we should be tried as followers of Christ, so he said of

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