IF YOU BELIEVE IN SALVATION BY GRACE, YOU HAD BETTER BY-PASS ALL THE FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

JAMES A. FREDERICK (Now In Glory)

against believers and unbelievers and he must say, God (not Jesus The Light of the world). All of this being yoked together in anything, first). When one is asked what the takes place with his shirt off and especially worldly organizations: the Masonic Lodge is of the world, worldly.

Now the Bible says, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3); also, II Cor- ons, heed this: When one, if being inthians 6:14,15 says, "Be not un- examined for his first degree, the preacher belonging to an organiequally yoked together"; and Master demands of the candidate zation like that, where Christ is brethren, don't tell me there are from whence he came and whither altogether left out. And, too, take no unbelievers in the Masonic he is traveling? The candidate ans- an oath that he will not reveal Lodge. One of their teachings is, I wers, "from the west and travel- what they are about to reveal to hope to live so as to reach the ing to the east." Then he is asked, him? Now, brethren, that is a sec-Eternal City and be a member of "Why do you leave the west and (Continued on page 5, Column 4)

Grand Lodge on high.

the Grand Lodge above. When one travel to the east?" His answer, is taking his first degree he is "In search of light." (And they First of all, the Bible is hard asked, in whom he puts his trust, do not point him to Christ who is square and compass is for, he is one pant leg rolled up and a rope to say, to square my walk and tied around his middle; he is led guide me so I will reach that blindfolded to one that is called The Most Worshipful Master-my

Can one picture a Baptist

Now, brethren, you that are Mas- Bible says worship Christ, only.

ham, to illustrate the point made.

Now if each of them is telling how a sinner becomes saved, one of them has to be in error. Because Romans 11:6 declares that grace and works do not mix. do not comimpossible that the life of the teaching a scheme of salvation opserved himself, having previously

ABRAHAM'S

C. W. DICKERSON

The problem stated: In Roman's

Coeburn, Va.

that justifieth the ungodly, his

faith is counted for righteousness."

But James 2:24 says this: "Ye

see then how that by works a man

is justified, and not by faith only."

Astonishingly, both Paul and

James use the same man, Abra-

the right hand of fellowship regarding his ministry among the heathen. Therefore, if indeed James 4:5 Paul has this: "But to him who in his second chapter is contraworketh not, but believeth on him dicting Paul in Romans 4, he has changed his position. Certainly Paul had not changed, since Titus 2:13, 14; 3:5 and Ephesians 2:8-10 dogmatically assert that, instead of works producing salvation the reverse is true, salvation produces good works in the life of him who is saved. Therefore, if James is teaching salvation by works, even in part, he has previously disqualified himself.

PROOF DECLARED

Although Paul and James each bine, therefore salvation has to be mentions an event in the life of wholly by only one. Further, it is Abraham, they do not mention the same event: Of added significance, same man could truly illustrate the two events are, in point of time two irreconcilable systems; But separated by at least 30, perhaps this we do know: If James is 40 years. Genesis 15:6 states of Abraham said "he believed in the posed to that of Paul, he stands Lord, and he counted it to him for condemned as one who has re-righteousness." To this Paul makes reference in Romans 4:1-5. and publicly aligned himself with It occurred before Ishmael was Paul on this very question. The born. And Ishmael was 14 years of 15th chapter of Acts relates the age when Isaac was born. Then decision reached by the Church at when the Lord ordered Abraham Jerusalem in a counsel called to to offer Isaac in sacrifice, Isaac deliberate whether or not the Gen- was strong enough to carry a load tiles who had trusted Christ for sal- of wood up a mountain side (Genvation had to be circumcised and esis 22:6). Surely he was of that keep the law of Moses in order to time at least 16 years of age. If so, 16 plus 14 make 30, the minimum be saved. The Church and Holy Spirit declared "No" (Acts 15:24, length of time Abraham had been 26). Moreover, from verse 13 a righteous man before he offered Isaac. He was not made a rightthrough verse 21, James led the discussion and advocated the same poeous man by offering Isaac. (He had the knife ready to slay Isaac sition which Paul did. Paul speaking of this experience (Gal. 2:8) when the Lord stopped him). Andeclares that James, Cephas, and other point: The word "justify" is John gave to him and Barnabas (Continued on page 6, column 4)

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By JOE WILSON, SR. Winston-Salem, North Carolina

that was at Antioch . . . and when they had fasted and prayed, and 13:1a, 3, 4a).

they rehearsed all that God had ferent in many important respects the approval of the Board. Now

." (Eph. 3:21).

Please note the word 'or' in the subject of this article. It is important. I do not say the Bible way and the Mission Board way. I do not say the Bible way is the Mission Board way. I certainly and

THE BELIEVER IS ETERNALLY SECURE

1. Because Christ did not come to help save, but to save.

Luke 19:10: "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

2. Because the Holy Spirit abides

in the believer forever. John 14:16-17: "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him: for he dwelleth with ou, and shall be in you."

enly. I Corinthians 15:49: "And as we have borne the image of the recognize that call and authorize (Continued on page 6, column 1) equality, the freedom of the ablest earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly."

4. Because the believer is preserved unto the heavenly king-

II Timothy 4:18: "And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory forever and ever."

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5. Because a sealed and witnessed transaction is final.

Ephesians 1:13: "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believe, ye were sealed hold on the horns of the altar. with that Holy Spirit of promise." Sealed by the Spirit.

6. Salvation is obtained, not at-

blood of goats and calves, but by saying, Go, fall upon him. his own blood he entered in once ed eternal redemption for us."

specifically say the Bible way OR that person as a missionary. Still, the Mission Board way. Because it he cannot be a missionary "Now there were in the church is one or the other. It cannot be Board way unless the Board apboth. They do not mix. One can proves of him and is willing to send do mission work the Mission Board him out as a missionary. Now, forth by the Holy Ghost . . ." (Acts doing mission work. But if one does authorized by God's appointed audone with them . . ." (Acts 14:27). from the Mission Board way. So this seems to me to be putting a



JOE WILSON

other. We cannot mix them or use them both.

Let us notice some things about the Mission Board way. The Mission Board is the final and determining authority in the mission 3. Because the believer has not work. The Board decides whether yet borne the image of the heav- or not one can be a missionary. A man might be called to be a missionary and some church may way of doing mission work and see er hand, if all are held to absolute

way. Most folk do it this way. It here is a strange thing. A man them away. So they being sent is an easy and attractive way of may be called of God. He may be mission work the Mission Board thorizing institution-a true Bap-"And when they were come, and way, they are not doing it the tist Church—but he cannot be a had gathered the church together, Bible way. The Bible way is dif- missionary the Board way without "Unto Him be glory in the church we must choose between one or the mission board ahead of God and ahead of God's authorized and authorizing institution.

> The Mission Board way gives the Board authority over when, where, and how long the missionary, can do mission work. The missionary must go where the Board says. He must stay as long, and only as long, as the Board says. He must leave the field when the Board says. He is under the absolute authority of the Board as long as he is a Mission Board missionary. Now, surely, brethren, than silver!" (Proverbs 16:16). this is human dictatorship in the

property purchased by mission money is the property of the Mis- make it so either. Freedom, yession Board. This is surely not the proper way of doing mission work.

In the Mission Board way, the glory goes to the Mission Board. And it should. If the Mission Board is in control, and is directing the work, and owns everything connected with the work, then it should get the glory, and it does. If you are well acquainted with any Mission Board men, you are this fact.

By G. RUSSELL EVANS Norfolk, Va.

(Captain Evans is a free lance writer, uthor of a book and numerous articles author of a book and numerous articles on historic, political, and religious subjects, graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and the U.S. Naval War College; and a retired Coast Guard officer and aviator, now living in, Norfolk, Virginia and engaged in research. After being a member of the United Methodist Church for 45 years, he and his wife separated themselves (II Corinthians 6:14-17) last October. They joined the Talbot Park Baptist Church of Norfolk, Va. and are now much happier, and more importantly, feel clean at last.

"How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen

"Freedom and equality for all" is more a paradox than an aphorbut equality for all is neither achievable, nor was it ever intended with parables and teachings about mankind's inequalities.

Freedom and equality are inescapable contradictions when applied together to all members of society: If all are absolutely free, then inequality will result because the ablest and most talented — whether by training, or circumstance, or by genetics-will al-Now let us study awhile the Bible ways achieve the most. On the oth-

will be suppressed so as to make every one equal in achievement. (Professor Rene de Visme Williamson in The Presbyterian Layman, October 1975). The ERA is not likely to change this principle because God never intended man and woman to be equal. Moreover, the ERA provides an excellent opportunity to understand inequality without umbrage or ostentation.

It has been called a time bomb, waiting to explode the American family. Now three states short of ratification, ERA advocates are anxious to slip it through. The 'extended time limit' expires June 30, 1982, but proponents are expected to be pushing soon for an-In the Mission Board way, the ism; and the proposed Equal other "extension." The proposed Rights Amendment (ERA) can't amendment has been stalled for almost nine years, whereas four years was the longest heretofore for any constitutional amendby our Maker. The Bible is replete ment. Why? Because it's supposed to be a contemporaneous action within "relatively the same period," according to the Supreme Court. But the Court didn't reckon with the Bella Abzugs, Steinams and Betty Friedans.

Most of the fifteen states that haven't ratified ERA have rejected it many times: for example, Illinois eleven times, Virginia eight times. Advocates say all ratifications are irrevocable and place no (Continued on page 4, column 4)

A Sermon by John R. Gilpin

ernacle of the Lord, and caught answered me.

that Jacob was fled unto the tab- him, and bury him: that thou thought about the word "hypocernacle of the Lord; and, behold, mayest take away the innocent risy," and "deceit," and "perfidy," he is by the altar. Then Solomon blood, which Joab shed, from me, and "murderer," but all these only Hebrews 9:12: "Neither by the sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and from the house of my father" mildly describes the character of

though he turned not after Absa- brought the king word again, say- enough to describe the character lom. And Jacob fled unto the tab- ing, Thus said Joab, and thus he Joab, I can't find in my studies

(I Kings 2:28-31).

"Then tidings came to Joab: for forth. And he said, Nay; but I in the Bible, but frankly, I don't Joab had turned after Adonijah, will die here. And Benaiah know a single word that is bad any one word that would describe And the king said unto him, the evil and the malignancy that And it was told king Solomon Do as he hath said, and fall upon characterized the life of Joab. I this man Joab.

And Benaiah came to the tab- As I study the Bible, I always I might say that Joab was Dainto the holy place, having obtain- ernacle of the Lord, and said un- try to find some one word that vid's nephew. He and Abishai to him, Thus saith the king, Come describes the various individuals (Continued on page 2, column 1) 1979 TBE

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Clinging To The Altar

(Continued from page 1) were the sons of Zeruiah. They were David's nephews, and though, in the main, they were loyal to David most of the time, at the same time, they were both mean treacherous, hypocritical, deceitful murderers. On one occasion, David said, "These sons of Zeruiah are too hard for me" (II Sam. 3:39).

Joab, this nephew of David, became the commander-in-chief of David's army, and in view of his position, he had an opportunity to do some things of an evil nature, that he might not have had the opportunity to do if it hadn't have been for his position.

The Word of God tells how, in cold blood, he murdered a good man by the name of Abner, Listen:

"And when Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him quiet- Absalom. Listen: ly, and smote him there under the fifth rib, that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother" (II Sam. 3:27).

Notice, he takes this man, Abner, to one side, as though to speak to him quietly or privately, or tell Abner something of a purely personal nature, and as they talked, Joab smote Abner under the fifth rib and he died. Can you imagine any act more hypocritical? Can you imagine any act which would reveal more hypocrisy?

When the word was brought to David, David said concerning Ab-

"Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?" (II Sam. 3:38). David thought of Abner as one of the greatest men of Israel, yet Joab murdered him cold-blooded-

ly. With hypocrisy and deceit, he

murdered this man at the city gate. On another occasion, the Word of God tells us that Joab murdered Absalom. Absalom, as you may recall, was David's son who rose up in rebellion against David. Absalom drove his father, David, off the throne, took possession of the country, and caused David to cross over the Jordan River and for a time to live on the east of the Jordan, while Absalom

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER OCTOBER 4, 1980 PAGE TWO

Ultimately, David was able to get together a small army, and his army and the army of Absalom met on Mt. Gilboa. There, on the east side of the Jordan Riv-Editorial Department, located in er, David's army won a decisive to the ground, and struck him not That the animal, when it was put victory over Absalom, and in the course of the battle, when it was 9,10). should be sent. Address: going contrary to him, Absalom

The Word of God also tells us how that Absalom was a beautiful man. We usually say that women are beautiful and men are handsome, but the Bible says that Absalom was beautiful.

One thing about Absalom that characterized him was his long hair. He was the first and only hippie we read about in the Bible.

This long-haired Absalom, who was beautiful in the face, fleeing on a mule from the battle of Mt. Gilboa, rode under an oak tree, and the Word of God says that the limbs of that tree got tangled in his hair, the mule ran out from under him, and Absalom was left hanging there by his hair in this oak tree. One young fellow saw it, and he hurried to headquarters and gave a report whereby he said, "Absalom is caught in the branches of an oak tree." Immediately, Joab said, "Did you kill him?"

Joab knew that David had given an explicit command, "Save the young man Absalom alive." Though Joab knew that this was the explicit command of King David, nevertheless, the first thing that Joab said to this bearer of the tid-

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ings that Absalom was caught in

the tree by his hair was, "Did you kill him?" When Joab learned that Absalom

had not been killed, immediately he hurried to the spot, and the Word of God says that Joab ran three darts through the heart of

"And Joab said unto the man that told him. And behold, thou fidy, the murderer that characsawest him, and why didst thou not smite him there to the and Amasa, and Absalom, and ground? and I would have given don't you let his hoar head go down thee ten shekels of silver, and a into the grave in peace. Even this altar even if I have to die." Dear Editor girdle.

Though I should receive a thousand shekels of silver in mine hand, text tells us what happened to religion, yet he fled to the altar always remember Calvary Baptist yet would I not put forth mine hand Joab. This man who had murderhearing the king charged thee and that none touch the young man Absalom.

Otherwise I should have wrought falsehood against mine hid from the king, and thou thyself wouldest have set thyself tioner, Benaiah, and gave comagainst me.

Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three death is approaching. I guess he darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom. while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak" (II Sam. 18:11-14).

Notice, Joab killed Abner of whom David said that a prince and a great man was fillen that day in himself. Israel, and Joab killed Absalom, even though David had said, "Save him; take him alive."

A little later, the Word of God tells us how that Joab murdered into the temple of God, stands by another man in cold blood, a man the altar, and grabs hold of the by the name of Amasa. We read:

"And Joab said to Amasa, Art

so he smote him therewith in the says that there was a horn put fifth rib, and shed out his bowels on each corner. For what purpose?

Notice how Joab took hold of horns of the altar. fled, riding on a mule, so the Word Amasa by the beard, spoke to him



By JOHN R. GILPIN (1905-1974)

deceitfully, and said, "Art thou in good health, my brother?" Then when Amasa was least expecting it, Joab struck him in the bowels and killed him.

If you will read the rest of the story you will find that Amasa wallowed in his own blood in the midst of the highway. Finally, they pulled him off the highway into a field and put a cloth over him so that the people wouldn't be able to see this man dying in his own blood, with his bowels cut out by Joab.

When you read these stories of Joab, how he murdered Abner, and Absalom, and Amasa, then you are not in the least surprised that David gave some advice unto Solomon:

"Moreover thou knowest also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, and what he did to the two captains of the hosts of Israel, unto Abner the son of Ner, and unto Amasa the son of Jether, whom he slew, and shed the blood of war in peace, and put the blood of war upon his girdle that was about his loins, and in his shoes that were on his feet. Do therefore according to thy wisdom, and let not his hoar head go down to the grave in peace" (I Kings 2:5,6).

When David was bidding goodbye to this world, he said to his son, Solomon, who was to reign in his stead, "Remember what Joab did. He is my nephew. He was commander-in-chief of my army. But just remember the treachery, the hypocrisy, the perterized him, how he killed Abner, though his head is white, don't al-And the man said unto Joab. low him to die in peace.

and turned to stand by another son Abishai and Ittai, saying, Beware of David by the name of Adonijah. about the same character as Joab, When he rebelled against Solomon, Solomon said, "That is enough. My father told me not to allow your hoar head to go down to the grave own life: for there is no matter in peace. You have rebelled against me." So he called for his execumand to kill Joab.

Joab knows that the hour of looked back and could see Abner, and Amasa, and Absalom, and probably the ghosts of many others that he had killed in the past, as they are now pursuing him, as he comes down to the end of life

Joab said, "They are going to kill me. Benaiah already has a command from Solomon to slay me." I can see Joab as he runs horns of the altar.

You understand the altar that thou in health, my brother? And is spoken of here was the brazen

Joab took Amasa by the beard altar on which the Jews offered gins to think about the Lord, but

Now Joab rushes into the temthe place to commit murder, I don't want to kill you here in this holy place."

Joab refused to come forth, The Word of God says that when he refused to come out of the holy place, the temple of the Lord, that Benaiah fell upon him and killed him, as he held on to the horns of the altar.

This is the story of Joab recounted to you briefly. Let me now bring to you a very, very pertinent application.

JOAB HAD LITTLE OR NO RELIGION, YET HE FLED TO THE ALTAR WHEN DEATH AP-PROACHED.

As I say, Joab had little enough religion. A man who would go contrary to the king's word to kill Absalom; a man who would, with treachery and hypocrisy, kill two great men as Amasa and Abner; a man who would rise up in rebellion against his king, certainly showed that he didn't have too

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much religion. But notice this, days. though he didn't have too much religion himself, he fled to the altar when death approached.

I can see him as he knows he is Dear Brethren: about to die, as he realizes that there is no hope of his escape. I Lord and grab the altar with his hands and stand there holding on say, "I am hoping somehow, in a true teachings. religious act-I am hoping somehow, in the externals of religion, and I'll hold on to the horns of

I wonder, beloved, if Joab isn't good example of the average much religion in this life, maybe you richly. who, when death approaches, be-

with the right hand to kiss him. their sacrifices. The Word of God as Joab grabbed hold of the ex-But Amasa took no heed to the tells us the dimensions of it and ternals of religion, so unsaved sword that was in Joab's hand: how it was made, and the Bible men today do the same as death approaches them.

Many a man, I say, as the hour of death approaches, turns to the again; and he died" (II Sam. 20: on this brazen altar to be burned externals of religion. How many as a sacrifice, could be tied to the people, though they have not been religiously inclined, and though they have never had any use for ple of the Lord and grabs hold of the Lord in this life- how many the horns on that altar. Benaiah of them, as the hour of death looks at him and says, "This isn't approaches, will run to the church or call for the preacher, that they though I am commissioned of the might in some way depend upon king to kill you. Come out of here. the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, or the ordinance of baptism. and thus they depend upon the externals of religion as they come down to die.

Beloved, the Bible says that these ordinances are for saved people. The ordinances are not for the unsaved. In fact, the Bible says that the ordinances will do an unsaved man no good, but rather harm. Listen:

"For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh DAMNATION to himself, not discerning the Lord's body" Cor. 11:29).

The ordinances are for saved people, and the man who is unsaved, who depends upon the ordinances, is actually doing himself an injury. He is actually hurting himself, because the ordinances are only for saved people, and not for the unsaved. But unsaved people will run to the ordinances and to the sacrament when death approaches.

Some years ago, I was going to Huntington one afternoon to make some calls in the C&O Hospital. I made mention of the fact when I was preaching in the YMCA at Russell that morning that I was going, but my car was broken down and I would have to ride the bus, and if anybody were going to Huntington that afternoon, I would

(Continued on page 3, Col. 1)

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> Yours in Christ. Williamsport, Pa.

You are doing a great job with TBE. I am real proud of In the providence of God, my man. As I say, he had little enough thank the Lord for your efforts. I when death approached. There's Church in my prayers. Keep up against the king's son: for in our ed others, turns against Solomon, many and many a man who hasn't the good work and may God bless

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(Continued from page two) appreciate a lift.

It so happened that there was a Methodist preacher in the service that morning. He said, "Bro. Gilpin, I am going to the hospital this afternoon. You can ride up there with me." So I rode to Huntington that afternoon with this Methodist preacher to make calls in the hospital.

It so happened that a few of the people he was going to see were people that I was going to see, so we went together to see them. This Methodist preacher said to me, "There is a man here who is very sick. I know you would like to talk to him, but he sent for me, so I don't think you ought to go in." He went inside his room and closed the door.

pital, and presently I came back waiting for me. When I went inside the room, he wasn't nearly as close to death as this Methodist preacher had made it appear, and I learned that this Methodist preacher baptized him as he lay there in the bed, by sprinkling a little water on his head. That fore he tried to keep me from going into his room.

This man, himself, questioned as to whether it would do him ing, that Catholic boy was much any good, but he thought if he were to die, he had better get some kind of religion before he died. This Methodist preacher was scamp and scalaway enough, religiously, to give this fellow dose of religion, if by no other way than by sprinkling a little water over his head a little while before he died.

Beloved, there's many and many a man just like that today. Old Joab ran into the tabernacle and took hold of the horns on the altar and said, "I'll stay here until I die. I am going to die holding onto the horns of the altar." There are people right here in this service, if they knew they were dying, would want something done. I dare say there are folk here, if they knew they were going to die, would make some type of profession of faith.

Too many people depend upon the externals of religion—if not that of the ordinances, then that of the preacher himself. A lot of people look upon a preacher when they are dying with a foolish reverence. They'll send for the preacher, and resort to prayer on the part of the preacher by the bedside.

I have been invited to come into homes to see sick people when of death to cling to the externals cause He died to redeem you from they were dying, and the family of religion. would leave the room and close the door and leave me to talk to the person who was sick. When I would come out, they would say, do something personally.

ple, like Joab, resort to the exter- Even if you live to be 70 or 80

Clinging To The Altar nals of religion, either by way of a sacrament or the minister himself?

> I have actually heard people "I don't like that preacher's funeral sermon. He didn't say whether or not that my father or my mother was saved." I remember years ago when my grandmother died, my brother said, "I just didn't like the preacher's sermon at all. He didn't say whether or not she was saved." And I have heard that time and time again.

say to you, beloved, that is holding on to the externals of religion. When you cling to the preacher and his prayers, or when you cling to a sacrament, or some ordinance, that is holding on to the externals of religion, just exactly like Joab did when he took hold of the horns on the altar.

I can remember an incident years ago when I was in my first I went on visiting around the hos- pastorate. There was a young girl, 18 to 20 years of age, who was sick and this man who was very ill and in one of the hospitals in Cincindying had his wife out in the hall nati. I knew her father well, but I thief on the cross who acknowledscarcely knew her or any of the rest of the family. There was a neighbor boy - a Catholic lad who was very much concerned about her; in fact, I understand that they intended to marry. As hospital and spent the last after-Methodist preacher didn't want me noon with this girl. This Catholic of its glory. to know anything about it; there- boy, the unsaved father, the unsaved daughter, and myself were in the hospital room together.

When the girl was actually dyconcerned that he pulled a bot-tle of "holy water" that he had there for that purpose, out of his pocket and sprinkled the father, the girl, me, and all the bed. He sprinkled us all with that supposedto-be holy water. Afterward, I said to this lad, "Why did you do that?" He said, "I wanted to be sure that she was saved. I wanted to be sure to lessen her pain in that ultimately she gets to Heaven, and I had to baptize her."

Beloved, that is clinging to the externals of religion, just exactly any like Joab did when he caught saved, and shall go in and out, and hold of the horns of the altar and find pasture" (John 10:9). said, "If I have to die, I'll die

Unsaved friends, if you were to die today, you would want something of a religious nature done before you died. How many times have I seen that true in life! I say to you that are unsaved, don't depend upon the externals. Don't depend upon a sacrament upon a preacher. Don't depend upon what the preacher says in the funeral service. Instead, flee to the Lord Jesus Christ and cling to Him, instead of waiting until the hour

MEN NEED TO RESORT TO THE TRUE ALTAR.

Men need to come to the only "Is he ready to die?" as if I could altar that is to be had, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. Hell is Don't you see, beloved, how peo- fast approaching every one of you.

The Baptist Examiner

BIBLE STUDY LESSON

By WILLARD PYLE

Pastor — First Baptist Church of Naples Park, Florida

For October 19, 1980

Ruth 1:14-18.

INTRO:-Even though the Book of Ruth is a book of simplicity concerning the events of a common family, it contains some of the most sublime truths found anywhere in the Word of God. Therefore we need to read it with the most careful consideration; of course, this is true of the entirety of the Word of God. In this lesson we have one of the most remarkable statements of faith ever made by anyone. Ruth, much like the ged the Kingship of Christ, as well as other important truths (Luke 23:40-43), saw things not seen with the natural eye (II Cor. 4:16,17; Heb. 11:13). In this age of shallow professions of faith when death approached, I went to the commitments mean so little, this truth needs to be set forth in all

VERSE 14

"And they lifted up their voice, and wept again." We must reiterate, mere emotions are not enough in relation to spiritual things. Tears are not a proof of genuine repentance. Many times people are moved to tears by high pressure evangelism, when they haven't been moved by the gospel of Christ. Sad to say, many, if not most so-called invitations at the conclusion of preaching services are geared to produce some move-

Purgatory. I wanted to be sure years of age, I say Hell is fast approaching, and your only hope is the Lord Jesus Christ. Listen:

"I am THE DOOR: by me if man enter in, he shall be

"I am THE WAY, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is NONE OTHER NAME under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

I say to you, unsaved friends, you need today - not in the hour nor the ordinances. Don't depend of death, but today - you need to resort to the true altar. Hell is fast approaching so far as you are concerned, and the only hope you can have is the Lord Jesus Christ. In Him you have redemption, beall your sins. In Him you can have righteousness, because He will clothe you with the righteousness of His Son. In Him you can have the assurance of your sins never being imputed unto you, because from the hour that you are saved, henceforth, God never charges you with another sin; He charges all those sins to your Substitute, your Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ. In Him you can have security. You can have the assurance that you are saved and kept saved, for if you are a child of God today, you will be a child of God tomorrow, and when you come down to die, you'll still be a child of God.

Oh, beloved, instead of clinging to the externals of religion, God help you to resort to the only true altar that there is, the Lord Jesus Christ himself, and cling to Jesus, just like Joab clung to the altar. Joab said, "If I die, I'll die here." May you take the same position and cling to the Lord Jesus Christ, and say, "I am going to trust Him Who died for my sins; and if I die and go to Hell, I'll die and go to Hell trusting the Lord Jesus Christ." Beloved, you'll not go to Hell if you die trusting the Lord Jesus Christ, for the man who trusts in Him, is going to be saved for time and for eternity.

I remember the woman of whom . it was said in the Word of God that she had had an issue of blood for twelve years. She had gone to (Continued on page 8, column 1)

was as touched as Ruth.

"And Orpah kissed her motherin-law." We now begin to see a vast distinction between Orpah and Ruth. Even though Orpah had natural affections and ties with Naomi, this is all she had. Orpah would have probably been persuaded to stay with Naomi if she could have seen any prospects for outward prosperity or gain. This is go." In these expressions we find like many church members. The only way to persuade them to stay with the church is by social activities and promise of prosperity and gain.

"But Ruth clave unto her." Here, we have an attachment and a bond beyond the natural relationship. We see many examples of this in the Bible (Acts 4:14, 23; 9:19, 26; Heb. 10:33,34).

VERSE 15

"And she said." It would seem apparent Naomi would now speak words of encouragement and assurance, but alas, not so.

"Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods." She points her to the ungodly example of her sister-in-law instead of pointing her to the right way (John 1:29). Consider Lot, who by example pointed his children to the ways of Sodom and Gomorrah.

"Return thou after thy sisterin-law." Not only did she point her, but exhorted her. How painful this must have been to Ruth. VERSE 16

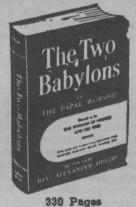
"And Ruth said." One would think surely by now Ruth would have been ready to return, but praise God, greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world (I John 4:4). She had been drawn

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ment by a sob story instead of the by the power of God (John 6:44). gospel story. Orpah, outwardly He had worked in her both to will and to do of His good pleasure (Philip. 2:13).

> "Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee." Ruth had respect for her mother-in-law and wished to honor her (Eph. 6:1,2) but the request she was making was not of God (Acts 5:29).

"For whither thou goest, I will a total commitment (II cor. 8:5). Can there be any greater examples than this? Yes, this should be true in the marriage vow (Gen. 2:24; Eph. 5:22-23) and in a greater sense in the spiritual realm between the believer and Christ (II Cor. 5: 14). To follow the Shepherd fully and without hesitation is much needed (Ps. 23:1,2). We should be followers of God as dear children (Eph. 5:1).

"And where thou lodgest, I will lodge." Ruth did not request comfort or ease but was ready to go anywhere and live anywhere. Spiritually, we should follow the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night (Ex. 13:21). How many of those of us who are preachers should thank God for a wife and many times, children who are willing to go and to lodge in places where it is difficult; but above all, the saved should be content to abide with Christ anywhere, in any condition (Philip. 4:12,13).

"Thy people shall be my people." Earthly relationships should be near and dear, but above all, we should be willing to separate ourselves, if need be, to follow Christ (Matt. 19:27-29). In fact, we are called upon to be a separate people (II Cor. 6:14-17). What a close relationship God's people ought to have (I Cor. 12:25,26; Acts 2:1; Philip. 1:27).

"And thy God my God." She, HEATHENISM OF EASTER, Etc. like the Thessalonians, was turned from idols unto God to serve the living and true God (I Thess. 1:9). What a transformation was taking place. She came to see Elijah's God was the true God (I Kings 18:

VERSE 17

"Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried." Again, she made a life long commitment.

"The Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me." Words cannot express more wonderfully and fully her desire and intention.

VERSE 18

"When she saw that she was steadfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her." What a testimony this is! It reminds us of Paul's statement in Acts 20:24: "But none of these things move me, neither count ! my life dear unto me," and in Acts 21:13:"Then Paul answered, "What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the Name of the Lord Jesus," and the response of the people, "And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done."

Conclusion: What a revival we would have in our churches if the saints would return to a practice of these vows. In fact, most members fail to understand the commitment they made when they were united to Christ and to the church. So these truths need to be emphasized to new converts as well as to old.

(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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"Was Noah the first preacher to ever get drunk?"

CLYDE T. EVERMAN 108 Burdsall Ave. Ft. Mitchell, Ky.

Lay Member Calvary **Baptist Church** Ashland, Ky.



Let us first look at a couple of days that were before the flood until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

Again in Genesis 6:5 we see, "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

that the human race will not have changed from before the flood until the coming of the Son of man. Therefore we can assume that men do today the same as they did before Noah's day. So preachers, as well as other children of God, being the seed of Adam with a sinful nature, can and often do commit sin, even the sin of drunkenness. This has been true in all ages, before and after the flood.

JOSEPH M. WILSON Route 4 1450 Old Hollow Road Winston Salem, N. C. 27105 Pastor GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH Stanleyville, N.C.



"And he drank of the wine, and was drunken . . " (Gen. 9:21).

Noah was a preacher, and a might argue as to the sinfulness or lack of sinfulness of drinking: But believe the Bible and not admit that it is a sin to get drunk. Some efend the sins of the saints. them from their sins.

But, he is the first one to get drunk be a castaway" (1 Cor. 9:27). but as far as the Bible record goes, and that even the most godly are

Noah was the first one. I have been running it through my mind, ill-example that the use of alcohol and I am wondering if Noah was the only preacher the Bible records as getting drunk. Maybe someone can help me here. I cannot at the moment think of another such case of Noah, we need to remember he recorded in the Bible.

Let us beware of defending Noah for this sin. But, also, let us beware of being overly critical. Many preachers have never gotten drunk. But, they have never built an ark Scriptures. In Matthew 24:37-39 we to the saving of their house. They read, "But as the days of Noe have not believed God in such were, so shall also the coming of situations as Noah did or with such the Son of man be. For as in the results. Let us beware of using Noah's sin here to defend our own they were eating and drinking, sins or the sins of others. One marrying and giving in marriage, man's sin can never properly be used to excuse the sin of another man. Oh, we need to learn to properly use Bible stories to our spiritual good, the spiritual good of others and the glory of God, for that is one of the reasons they were recorded.

Drunkenness is one of the most terrible of sins today. It behooves all preachers, believers, and churches to take a strong, hard From these Scriptures we see stand against this terrible sin. Any member guilty of such should be required to cease at once, to repent of his sin, or to be forthwith excluded from the church. The church should make it very clear that it is unalterably opposed to this sin and will not tolerate, encourage or aid and abet such sin.

> OSCAR MINK 219 North Street Crestline, Ohio 44827



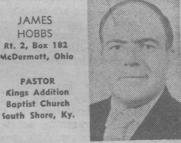
The Scriptures inform us that the time in which Noah lived was exceedingly evil, and that drunkenness was one of the prevailing evils (Mt. 24:37,38). The probability of righteous men falling in intengreat preacher, though he had lit- sely evil times is much greater than tle outward success with his when restraint against immorality preaching. Noah did get drunk. is generally practiced. Therefore, Now, this was a terrible sin. One I cannot say with any degree of certainly, whether or not, Noah was the first preacher ever to get no one can ever even pretend to drunk. Christ said, "But as the (1 Cor. 10:11, 12). days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" try to defend Noah by saying that (Mt. 24:37). The corruption of the he did not know wine would make antediluvians finds its parallel in one drunk. This is foolish. I am our present day. Some who were sure that in those awful days be- once great preachers and godly fore the flood, Noah saw many of men have been caught in the sahis fellow citizens drunk. We should tantic snare of drunkenness, or other sins of atrocious nature, and but admire the grace of God which have become castaways, Paul said, keeps them saved and recovers "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection; lest that I do not know that Noah was the by any means, when I have first preacher to ever get drunk. preached to others, I myself should

that is recorded in the Bible. There The saint should learn from may have been others before him, Noah's fall, that the flesh is weak,

not totally free from its killing effects. They should learn from this as a beverage is unwise, that wine is a mocker, and strong drink is raging (Prov. 20:1). Yet, while we find this blemish on the character was a great man of faith (Heb. 11:7) who walked with God in a time when all flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth. Noah's drunkenness was a sin against God, and we do not read much about Noah after this sin. However, Noah's sin of drunkenness does not diminish the awfulness of the sin of drunkenness by whosoever committed. The sin of drunkenness is in measure compounded when committed by a preacher or a Christian, but it is a sin for an unsaved doctor, lawyer, carpenter, plumber, mason, laborer, etc. to get drunk and a drunkard's grave awaits all those who tarry long at the wine or continues to fellowship John Barleycorn. Drunkards shall not "inherit the kingdom of God"

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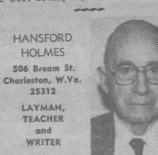
(I Cor. 6:10).



As far as I know or can find there is no indication of anyone drinking wine and getting drunk before Noah. Genesis 9:21 is the first account of such an incidence given.

Now, may I ask a question? What is the purpose of such a question as this? I'm curious as to why anyone would be interested.

Yes, Noah got drunk. Yes, Noah sinned. One of the blessings about the Bible is that God does not try to cover up or whitewash the sinful actions of His people. It does not give us a license to sin, but rather warns us so we will not fall in the same way. "Now all these things happened unto them for examples; and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."



The manner in which this question is put, gives me the impression that the querist has in mind that there was, possibly, some other preacher that holds that distinction, rather than Noah. But I am not able to, as yet, find such a

So, in response, I must qualify my answer by saying that Noah was the first preacher, "after the

flood," to get drunk. However, there was another first with Noah, before he got drunk. That first was worship, immediately after he came out of the ark, which is paramount to drunkenness. In this, God honored the worship of Noah and established a covenant with Noah. This was reminiscent of Noah's relation with God, even before the flood, that justified him before God, as it is written: "Noah was a just man and

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propitiatory sacrifice of His Son, Christ Jesus.

Consequently, we read that God "spared not the old world, but saved Noah, the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly" (II Pet. 2:5). Having been saved from all his sins, that included the sin of drunkenness; and, consequently, is not charged against him, even throughout eter-

The state of

A Look At Inequality

(Continuel from page 1) time limit on reconsiderations, i.e., once passed always passed, once rejected try, try again. The following states refuse ERA; Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Miss-issippi, North Carolina, Missouri, Nevada, Okiahoma, South Carolina, Utah, and Virginia. Five states Tennessee, Nebraska, (Idaho. South Dakota and Kentucky) have rescinded their ratification, and seven more have pending resolutions to rescind. The ERA prounpopular and advocates are screaming "foul" and, not unexmeasures.

One measure is to get all the church support they can, where "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

No argument there; Paul was teaching that all are equal in God's sight with equal opportunity and obligation for repentance and salvation. Church paper editors have said, "People need to think through the issues." Fine. Give them the whole story.

ERA means high stakes in politics. The ERA ladies at the Democratic National Convention exhilerated with unbounded joy about the Party plank to deny campaign funds to any candidate failing to

perfect in his generations, and support ERA. Thereby, ERA will Noah walked with God" (Gen. 6:9). make some more equal than others It has always been true that God and the rest more unequal than justifies the sinner, but never his many, or vice versa. Is equality sin; however, he is saved from going to control a candidate's honhis sin (Matt. 1:21) through the esty, or inequality? "Nevermind," said Illinois Legislator Monroe Ellis, "we don't get those funds anyway!"

> Another Illinois State Legislator, William Henry, told us on the TV evening news just recently that President Carter had telephoned an offer of federal housing funds for Mr. Henry's district in exchange for a favorable vote on ERA, then pending before the Legislature. Soon after, we read of an indictment against Ms. Wanda Brandstetter of the National Organization for Women for offering a \$1,000.00 bribe in exchange for another Illinois legislator's (Nord Swanstrom) favorable vote for ERA. Proving again that some are more equal than others, depending upon, in this case, briber's residence address. We assume NOW's money belonging to NOW; but the President's offered money, we know, didn't belong to him, but to the taxpayers.

President Carter has said, "There's one group in our nation that does not have equal rights under our constitution and ERA is the last legal step for equality for all," and, "ERA is important symposal is becoming more and more bolically and substantively to the unpopular and advocates are nation." Many constitutional lawyers argue that Article 14 of the pectedly, resorting to unusual Constitution provides "Equal protection of the laws" and, further, that many federal and state laws not only guarantee equal rights but Galatians 3:28 is often quoted: also many special rights for wom-

> The man who has studied the proposed ERA as carefully and thoroughly as anyone is former U.S. Senator and constitutional lawyer Sam Ervin (D-NC) and he has characterized ERA as "the most destructive piece of legislation ever to pass Congress.'

The former president of the National Council of Churches (NCC) and Stated Clerk of the United Presbyterian Church, William P. Thompson, calls ERA "a moral obligation which God will not allow us to ignore."

Common sense calls on you and (Continued on page 5, column 1)



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(Continued from page four) me to find out for ourselves.

The Equal Rights Amendment purports to provide that "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied . . . on account of Section 2 empowers Congress "to enforce by appropriate legislation." (Emphasis added). The 1971 resolution which proposed ERA set a seven year time limit for ratification with expiration date March 22, 1979.

When the game was being lost, Congress changed the rules and allowed 39 more months for ratification. This was done by a simple majority vote whereas constitutional amendments require a twothirds vote. Even the liberal press called this tampering with the constitution. Many legal authorities call this a breach of contract because when the terms are changed, the ratification process must start all over again. For example, 28 states okayed ERA with the year time limit" included within their formal ratifications. Now, these ratifications were void after March 22, 1979.

Columnist George Wills explains: "The attempt to rig the ratification of ERA, like ERA itself, is characteristic of a political movement that is anemic and impatient and reckless, too weak to win in representative institutions and unwilling to accept defeat." But Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) liked it, crying "Phyllis Schlafly, where are you now?" Answer: Suing lagainst this ex-

In 1972 the proposed ERA breezed through Congress and within a few months 30 states had okayed it; but then the ladies and others began finding out things. For example, laws were already on the books to do all that ERA could do and much more. ERA would shift from the states to the federal government the control of marriage, divorce, child custody, and most every facet of family life.

What exactly do the hard-core activists say about ERA and the family? Dr. Mary Jo Bane of Wellesley College: "It (divorce) makes for better family life . . Divorce improves the quality of marriage." Gloria Steinam, editor of Ms. Magazine: "By the year 2000 we will, I hope, raise our children to believe in human potential, not God." Betty Friedan, NOW-ERA: "I am convinced if we lose this struggle (ERA) we will have little hope in our own lifetime of saving our right to abortion."

This is the ERA that many mainline churches support, including the NCC, the United Presbyterian Church USA, the United Methodist Church, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the United Church of Christ, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. every year since 1975 plus a proof dollars of collection plate money standards. in supporting ERA. It is ironic

Family Life comes on strong for ERA considering the threat to families that an ERA will produce. As for boycotts, this seems cruel and unChristian, punishing innocent workers and raising charges of bias and pettiness. It insults state legislators, who hopefully will vote their constituent's wishes rather than surrender to this "Christian blackmail."

How about the potentialities of an ERA? The amendment would equalize "rights under the law" for men and women and Congress would legislate the details. This is blank check! No one knows how the Supreme Court will interpret the ERA. In the case of the threeinch snail darter, the Court upheld the letter of the law that protected this little fish as an endangered species and delayed the construction of the huge Tellicoe Dam in Tennessee for five years until Congress decided what law it wanted! This example illustrates the danger of all-encompassing laws, ERA is all-encompassing, too.

Why shouldn't the Supreme Court, or any other court for that matter, make the same literal interpretation of an ERA? words are clear: "Equality shall not be denied . . ." Courts will examine the legislative history to find out Congress's intentions about wiping out all distinctions between men and women. Let us examine this legislative history:

In October 1971 the U.S. House Representatives rejected the Wiggins Amendment which would have protected women from the military draft, combat duty, and strenuous manual labor, and would have given women special benefits in the family unit. After this defeat, ERA was passed overwhelmingly 354-23.

In March 1972 the ERA reached the U.S. Senate where Senator Ervin proposed nine amendments, one after the other. All were soundly rejected, a typical vote being 77-14. Here are the things that Senator Ervin's amendments would have provided:

-Exempt women from compulsory military service and from combat assignments in the armed forces.

-Protect women from compulsory overtime on the job and from compulsory heavy lifting. (In this case, ERA would wipe out every bit of protective legislation that women had gained over several generations).

-Extend protection or exemptions to wives, mothers, and wid-

-Impose upon fathers the responsibility to support their children. (In these latter two cases, ERA would wipe out all laws protecting wives, mothers, and widows and which required fathers to support their children).

-Insure privacy to men and The NCC has endorsed the ERA women in public restrooms, hospital rooms, college dormitories, posal to boycott states that have- and other public facilities where the ERA, "sex is to be an impern't ratified it. Same for the Meth- sex integration would offend per- missible legal classification." community and

en only.

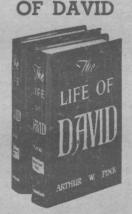
These proposed amendments were designed to protect women lated away. There are now some and all were rejected. This is the ten million laws just to enforce the main thrust of the legislative his- Ten Commandments. God intendtory which clearly proves that ed man and woman to complement Congress intended for ERA to be each other for the continuation of or stole, or committed adultery, is total and absolute in wiping out all life on earth. They are not creexisting superior rights of women. ated as identicals or as equals. To If anyone doubts the seriousness of the legislative history, he should read The Congressional Record for ation, and mutual understanding March 21 and 22, 1972. The courts will be reading it and studying it when they adjudicate the ERA.

Constitutional lawyers see much mischief from the vague all-emcompassing ERA:

-A power grab by the feds, transferring jurisdiction over marriage, property, divorce, alimony, child custody, and inheritance rights away from the states and into the federal bureaucracies and courts.

-Eliminating the all-girls and

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all-boys schools and colleges as well as single sex fraternities and sororities.

-Homosexual marriages would be legalized because marriage laws would provide for the union of "persons" rather than "men and women." State legislatures would be required to delete "sexist" language from state laws (man, woman, male, female and substitute non-sexist language (person, spouse).

adopt children under "equality for

-Under the absolutist nature of

For more on the monster be proposed by the intellectual liber--Preserve the laws that impose als, and being unwittingly support. check and see if these things I ed by millions of well-intentioned say are so. but uninformed Americans, let me uel. T. Perkins and Arthur J. Silverstein entitled "The legality of Homosexual Marriage" which appears in the Yale Law Journal of January 1973.

ERA offers nothing which the ladies do not now have, takes away much which they'd never get back, and could extirpate the American family as we now know it. Congress recognized the need for more protection for women and since 1960 has passed over 30 laws to that end. For example, the Equal Pay Act of 1963, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Equal Employment Act of 1972. These laws need to be properly enforced. With an ERA, the courts must rule unconstitutional any law which favors women, just as on racial issues, and separate but equal would

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER OCTOBER 4, 1980 PAGE FIVE

snail darter).

Human problems cannot be legisa great extent their relationship believed in the only begotten Son should depend on religion, cooperand compassion, as well as an understanding of their inequalities. God assigned women a role in life that man cannot fulfill. No comamendments can substitute for common sense, common decency, and a respect for each other. Jesus gave us the command for understanding at The Last Supper when He told His disciples: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another" (John 13:34).

In his advice to the North Carolina General Assembly, Senator Sam Ervin characterized the Equal Rights Amendment as "incompatible with the highest interests of society." We can only carefully weigh the evidence.

If You Believe In . . .

(Continued from page 1) ret oath (Lev. 5:4,5), for he does not know at that time what they will reveal to him. Matthew 5:34-

like this: If I should reveal what rough sands of the sea at low and flows twice in twenty-four I'm crazy for that is the crux of the Masonic oath, and any Mason that is honest, will tell you man who is washed in the Blood of The Only Begotten Son of God walk with a bunch like that?

Furthermore, he swears to protect his brethren in the lodge (not in The Church) against everything, except murder and treason, and he has his own choice there. The Bible teaches me to rebuke them that sin before all, that others may fear (I Tim. 5:20; Titus 1:13).

I have had Masons to tell me that they pray (to Christ) in their Lodge; in some Lodges they may, but it is not according to Masonic rules. When you try to talk to most Masons about their souls, they will tell you, "If I live up to my lodge vows I believe I will make -Homosexual "couples" could it." How many of you preach ers have had that told you? But, why shouldn't a Mason say that, when the Masonic Lodge teaches salvation by works. Now brethren, you that are Masons, lodge teachings and the Bible and out apology.

Now Masons say, I hope to enter respectfully refer the reader to into the grand Lodge above; the an exhaustive law review by Sam- Bible, in Revelation tells me I am sales tax.

A Look At Inequality that the Methodist Committee on penalties for crimes against wom- not be acceptable. (Remember the sure to enter into the New Jerusalem. Also, John 5:24 tells us we are sure of life after death. And John 3:18 tells us that he that believeth is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, (not because he got drunk, a murderer, or is not a good lodge member): But because he hath not of the God. That is the only hope of the world today (II Cor. 5:19).

Now, brethren, when all our sins were put on Christ, God couldn't look on His own Son. WHY? For He had your sins and mine; He pendium of laws or constitutional suffered without the Camp, forsaken by The Father; for He said, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" He took my sins in "His own body on the tree," and He paid our sin debt to The Father to the last farthing. Now I am free from all condemnation, and can sing, "Amazing Grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me." Brethren, that was Grace, when in the council halls of eternity the Father gave me to the Son, and in dying time the Son came and paid my sin debt IN FULL. Now, for me to join one of those lodges, and by my actions hope that state legislators will say to the world, that one god or one church is as good as another is to blaspheme the Word, and before I do I hope that my God will take me out of this world.

Brethren, my prayer is that all that are saved will come out of, not only the Masonic lodge, but all other lodges, for one is as bad as another.

My prayer is that God's chil-36 teaches us against swearing. dren will hear His Word and come, The recruit repeats something out, and be separate people. For when we stand before Christ to you are about to reveal to me, receive our rewards, you lodge may my throat be cut from ear to members will say, "Lord, Lord, we ear, my tongue be torn out by the belonged to lodge so and so, and roots, and my body buried in the did a lot of wonderful works in Thy Name, and then He will turn to water-mark, where the tide ebbs Ephesians 3:21 and read, "Unto Him be glory in The Church,"hours; so help me God, and keep not in a lodge, for Christ sent me steadfast. Brethren, don't think His church to "preach The Gospel" (not the lodge). If He gave His authority to His Churches (not the lodge), and will receive honor this is true. Now, brethren, can a thru the Church only; why then, will blood-bought Baptists want to belong to anything other than The Church that Jesus built? I can understand anyone who believes in Salvation by works belonging to a lodge that teaches works for salvation, but to those who say they believe in Grace, The Lord says, "Come out and be ye separate, and I will receive you, saith the Lord.



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The Bible Way Or ...

(Continued from Page 1) how it is contrasted with the Mission Board way. In the Bible way, God calls the missionary with a personal call which does not have to meet the approval of some manmade organization. Now the Mission Board would say that God must call the missionary, but they also practice that this one who says he is called must be approved by the Mission Board. So we see that in the Bible way, the man deals privately and personally with God as to this matter, whereas the Mission Board way puts other men in the way.

The Bible way is through God's instituted, and authorized agency; a true church of Jesus Christ. Our Lord gave the commission to do mission work in the world to His church and thereby to all churches descending from that church and continuing as true churches. Mission Boards were started by and continue by the authority of men. Some Mission Board men are strongly opposed to false churches. For instance, I feel sure that most BFM men would oppose doing mission work through a Methodist, or Holiness, or Mormon, etc., so-called church. Yet, these false churches are no more man-made than the BF Mission Board. These false churches have as much authority to exist and do the Lord's mission work as BFM or any other man-made Mission Board - and they all are manmade.

The Bible way of mission work is this: God calls a man to be a missionary. God leads His authorized and authorizing institutiona true Baptist Church-to recognize that call, and to authorize this God-called man to be an authorized missionary of that church. Now, the Mission Board advocates might object that in our statement of the Bible way, we have an authority that the man who says God has called him to be a missionary must come before and meet its approval. And we do. Then the Mission Board advocate will want to know why we say this, and yet we object to their having an authority that a man must come before and meet its approval. Well, the difference is that a Mission Board is a man-made institution with no Divine authority, whereas a true church is a Divinelymade institution with Divinely-given authority. It is the difference between man's way or God's way.

In the Bible way, the God-called and church-authorized missionary is free to be led of the Lord as to where and how in his mission work. Read about Paul's mission work in Acts. You will see that the way he did mission work is not the way of the Mission Board, but is the way I have described as the Bible way.

Surely, it is very clear to any Bible reader that Mission Boards support Mission Boards!

The Lord commissioned His churches to do His work in the world. The church was baptized with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. The church is the pillar and ground of the truth. God gets glory through the church. Now, if one will carefully study all that the Bible teaches about the church, one will understand the Bible way of doing missions and will not support Mission Boards.

Bible missionaries were authorized and sent forth by local Baptist churches. They then labored in mission work as the Spirit of God led them. They reported concerning their mission work to the church which sent them out. This is the Bible way and it is most surely not the Mission Board way of doing things.

The Bible way results in the glory for what is done in mission work going to God, and not to a Mission Board or to some man or men. And this is the way it should be. It is God who calls the missionary and gives him wisdom and power in doing mission work. It es to recognize this call and to

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leads the missionary as to the field of labor and as to how long to are not found in the Bible. Now, if stay there and when and where to there are no Mission Boards in the move on, and how to carry out Bible, how can the Mission Board the work. It is God who blesses the way be the Bible way of doing mis- work of the missionary if and sion work? And since the Mission when souls are saved, and church-Board way is not found in the Bi- es organized. In the Bible way, it ble, and is clearly opposed to the is all of God and by God, and is all made institution ahead of God's Bible way, then how can one who to the glory of God. Oh, brethren, professes to believe in the auth- this is what it is all about. Glory ority of the Bible, advocate and to God! Glory to God! God created all things and does all that He The Lord Jesus Christ started does for His own glory. We should Baptist churches in His earthly realize that it is the chief end of ministry and guaranteed them per- man to glorify God. We should realpetuity until His coming again. ize that the way to do things to the

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Question:-

WHAT TWO MATERIALS WERE FORBIDDEN IN THE SAME GAR-

Answer:-Woolen and linen, Deuteronomy 22:11-"Thou shalt not wear a garment of divers sorts, as of woolen and linen together." Pioneer Americans transgressed this commandment when they wore "linsey-woolsey" clothes.

glory of God is to do them as taught in the Word of God. The Bible is my guide book of how to properly glorify my God. The Bible reveals that God gets glory is God who directs His true church- in the church. Therefore, if I am to glorify God as I should, I must send him forth. It is God who be in a church and serve God in, and through, and under the authority of the church.

Away with Mission Boards. Away with associations and conventions. Away with so - called Christian schools and seminaries, and away with every thing that professes to be doing the Lord's work that is not under the authority of a true church of Jesus Christ. Let us honor Christ and exalt Him by bowing to His authority and doing things the way He teaches us in Word. Truly saved people should be in the army of the Lord. They should fall in, line up, and march forth—not at the commands of men - not according to the words of conventions, associations, and Mission Boards-but at the commands of their one and only King, Lord, and Master - even Jesus Christ.

Oh, my brother, this way of doing mission work the Mission Board way—why do I oppose it so? Why does TBE stand so against it-Why? you ask. Because it dishonors our Lord by putting the wisdom and word of men ahead of the wisdom and Word of God. Because it robs Jesus Christ of the glory that is His due and gives it to men.

See the Mission Board. See it strip the glorious crown from the head of Jesus Christ and put it on the Mission Board. Brethren, this is not a light and unimportant thing. We cannot—we must not we dare not say that so long as we are doing mission work, it does not matter how we do it. Many Mission Board advocates — I think especially of BFM and other socalled Baptist boards—many of of these will say that it matters how you baptize—and it does; that it matters how you observe the Lord's Supper, what elements you use, and who is invited-and it does. But these same men will say it does not matter how you do mission work—but it does.

Let us sum the matter up. The Mission Board way exalts a mandivinely instituted and authorized churches. It dishonors God by impugning His wisdom—as if God did not know how to best do mission work. Can you not see that Mission Boards think they have improved on God's way. (Poor God. How did he get along without men telling Him what to do and how to do it?) The Mission Board way robs God of His glory. It belittles God's true churches. It binds the missionary to the whims, and wishes of the board, and robs him of God-given freedom in being Spirit led. One could go ments could be brought against cates. I would remind every Mission Board missionary, advocate, and supporter that he or she will one day stand before the Lord and have to answer as to why they put the man-made Mission Board

> THE BAPTIST EXAMINER OCTOBER 4, 1980 PAGE SIX

way ahead of God's Bible way.

The Bible way has a God-called missionary. This missionary recognized, approved and authorized to do mission work by God's authorized and authorizing institution. The Missionary being free to foling mission work. Anyone can see other. The Mission Board way is not the Bible way, but is contrary to, and opposed to the Bible way. Our church has adopted the Bible way. We intend to continue to do our mission work in this way. We oppose the Mission Board way. We do not, and will not support a Mission Board, and we will not support a missionary who is out under a Mission Board. We desire and endeavor to give God glory in the church.

We support what we consider the two greatest mission works in the world today: The Baptist Examiner and New Guinea Missions with Fred Halliman. We hope some day to be able to give more to these mission works and to be able to support other mission work. But our support will be given through our church to our own missionary, or to the mission work of another true church of Jesus Christ who is doing mission work-not the Mission Board way-but the Bible way. God bless you all!

Abraham's Children

(Continued from page 1) variously used in Scripture. For instance in Luke 7:29 it is said that certain people justified God by accepting the baptism of John. Note Matthew 11:19 also, Likewise Abraham justified the Lord by offering Isaac. So doing he proved that God had told the truth when he had counted Abraham righteous. At the same time he justified himself as a friend of God. Paul wrote of that which God sees; James, of that which men see. Faith can be seen only when translated into works. Paul and James are in accord, presenting the two sides of the coin. Yet no one can be justified by works until he has been justified before God by faith without works. James contends that a Christian will prove his faith by his works (I John 2:4). Paul, himself, taught the same. (I Corinthians 6:9-11; Romans 6:14).

FURTHER ILLUSTRATION

The Saviour told some Hebrews, "If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abra-

below he told the same people, "He that is of God, heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God" (John 8:47). Of course He meant that they would heed His word if they were of God. If Abraham had low the leading of the Spirit in do- not been a saved man, he would never have offered Isaac. But when that these are two different ways, a sinner realizes that he is under and that it must be one or the condemnation because of his sins (John 3:36) and justly so, being without excuse, and that he is helpless to save himself, then learns that He against Whom he has sinned, is of great mercy and offers to forgive him and save him because the Lord Jesus died in his stead and room, and then trusts the blessed Saviour and passes from death unto life, he is filled with gratitude and love to his Saviour, and counts it a privilege to serve Him! Thus it was with Abraham, and with all who are truly saved, born again. For Abraham is the father of the faithful (Gal. 3:7). It is true those of like faith will show it by the manner in which they obey the Lord.

THE WRONG WAY

Baptists, in failing to heed James' warning, have suffered great loss. Not by word of mouth, but by practice, we have said, 'We believe all our members, regardless of how they live, have eternal life." And our efforts to be popular have been counter productive, "by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of" (II Peter 2:2). By lack of church discipline we have, if not in fact sowed the seed, fertilized the soil in which so much heresy is flourishing. The Divine order is indispensable. Only he who already has a by-faith righteousness can justify himself by works. Therefore, James uses Abraham to illustrate his point. To reverse this order is disastrous. Many think they can start with works and thereby attain righteousness. This results in nothing but dead works. Hebrews 6:1; 9:14. Such lack the proper motive, love. John 14:15. They are trying to buy works that which can be had by gift only! If one could reach Heaven by his own works, why did the Saviour die upon the cross? There is no other way to be saved. Matthew 7:21-23 has an example of some who thought that they could save themselves. They will claim to have cast out devils (demons) and to have done many wonderful works. Because the Saviour did not deny it, and in view of Matthew 24:24, Revelation 13: 13, we feel warranted to believe that they told the truth. Yet, in so ham" (John 8:39). And ten verses (Continued on page 8, column 2)

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Companies have started an exten- broadcast a television adaptation money tax-free and the tax cheatsive advertising campaign with a of The Women's Room reveals the message devoted to creating an "anti-family, anti-marriage, antiawareness of Christianity.

the Son Shine Through."

Robert O. Naegele, founder and chairman of the board, said the company will display posters and painted bulletins in all of the firm's 21 operating markets across the United States. The message "Let the Son Shine Through" will be displayed with a large cross against a background of darkness with sun shining through.

The posters will run as a teaser campaign in which the first posting will show only the word, "Lonely?" running for a period of two weeks. The answer will be posted: 'Lo, Jesus is with you always," Matthew 28-20. The bottom of the poster will show the name and address of a religious sponsor.

MOSCOW (EP via RNS) - Mr. Gleb Pavolich Yakunin, a Russian Orthodox priest and religious rights advocate, has been convicted of "anti-Soviet" activities and sentenced to five years in prison and five years of internal exile.

* * *

Father Yakunin, the 46-year-old co-founder of the Christian Committee for the Defense of Believer's Rights in the USSR, declared in court that his activities were "my religious duty as a priest," his wife Iraida reported. Mrs. Yakunin said her husband denied his work was aimed at subverting the Soviet state.

Western reporters and the priest's supporters were barred from the court proceedings. An exception was made in favor of Mrs. Yakunin. No representative of the Moscow patriarchate of the Russian Orthodox Church spoke in defense of Father Yakunia.

The Committee for the Defense of Believers Rights was founded in 1976 to distribute (underground) information on the situation of religious believers in the Soviet Union and to assist them in obtaining their legal rights.

TUPELO, Miss. (EP via RNS)-

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INDIANAPOLIS (EP via RNS) A media monitoring group here - Naegele Outdoor Advertising says the decision by ABC-TV to traditional social values" of the Theme of the displays is "Let network. The broadcast was launched by Mr. Donald E. Wildmon of the National Federation for Decen-

> "The decision to show the vicious, ugly, blatantly biased film brings into the open what many have known for some time," he said. "The anti-family values they have been very subtle in promoting for the past several years are now being advocated openly by ABC. The veil has been raised and the public can see the clear intent." The film, based on a novel of the same title by Marilyn French, depicts suburban housewives in a state of drudgery and oppression. They seek escape through extramarital affairs.

In the past, Mr. Wildmon has directed most of his ire toward CBS-TV. But in this case, ABC was the only major network to accept The Women's Room after the other two turned it down, he said. "ABC was willing to admit their willingness to exploit to the hilt by airing the program," he said. The Women's Room is expected to go on the air sometime in October.

HAMILTON, Ontario (EP)-Thirteen thousand Pentecostals were at the Ivor Wynne Stadium in Hamilton, August 24, for the mass rally which was a part of the 32nd Biennial General Conference of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, held August 21 to 26.

A strong, united stand against homosexuality, legalization of prostitution, decriminalization of incest, abortion and mercy killing was demonstrated as resolutions covering these matters passed unanimously, without debate, maintaining traditional Judeo-Christian values. The consideration of ordination for women was debated and although the voting showed a 51 per cent in favor, it was turned down by the conference as a twothird vote was required for a constitutional change.

SALT LAKE CITY (EP)-"I loved my son too much to hate read. This book is a paperback and anybody for hurting him," Theodore Fields said.

Mr. Fields, pastor of New Pil-grim Baptist Church in Salt Lake City, spoke just before funeral services were held for his son, Ted, 20, who was gunned down by a sniper as he jogged near Liberty Park late August 20. The younger Fields and a friend, David Martin III, 18, were killed in the fusillade of high-powered rifle shots tion. Both young men were members of the 200-member black Baptist congregation affiliated with the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention.

Salt Lake City police are seekintersection. The firm for which Pipeline Corp., posted a \$25,000 re- selors. ward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the assailant. The Salt Lake City Tri. spring on the grounds that imbune also posted a \$10,000 reward.

"The police don't have any real leads," the elder Fields said. Salt ministers. The language was tight-Lake City newspapers speculated the sniper "knew who he wanted to kill," and indicated the slayings were "not the work of a random psychopath."

NEWARK (EP via RNS)-The Internal Revenue Service believes more than 300 New Jerseyans have used "mail order ordinations" to CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH claim spurious tax exemptions for church activities. The IRS has undertaken an audit of 59 persons to Ashland, Ky. 41101 check "the dimensions of the tax

cy spokesman here. The check has county's vehicles-more than 200 uncovered two basic methods of of them. Bernalillo County is New beating taxes through the "mail Mexico's most populous county order ministry."

In one, a taxpayer joins the ordained ministry of a church, renounces all worldly possessions and donates the income from a regular job to the church, The church then returns the donated er is able to maintain or improve upon the previous lifestyle that was supposedly renounced. The other scheme involves tax deduction claims for donations to "religious organizations," the IRS spokesman said. The organization then returns the donated money.

RALEIGH, N.C. (EP via RNS) -U.S. District Court Judge Franklin Dupree says he will conduct a hearing "before the end of the year" on a complaint by a North Carolina prisoner who wants to be able to keep items for the practice of voodoo in his cell. The prisoner claims not being able to keep the items in his cell is an infringement on his religion.

The complaint was filed by George Barringer, who says he is

Let's Study The Lord's Church By E. G. Cook



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The material in this book was carried serially in TBE. We are very happy to offer it now in book form to our readers. Bro. Cook lays stress upon the local church to the exclusion of the universal, invisible church of Protestantism. This book contains the knowledge which a man has acquired through many years of study. It is a book which all lovers of church truth will want to purchase and contains 85 pages.

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a voodoo priest known as "Juju." He seeks to keep such things as an imitation skull in his cell, and a bag for a rat's foot he owns. Black Muslims won the right to keep prayer rugs in their cells, and Mr. Barringer contends he has as as they and two young women jog-much right to keep his voodoo items in his cell.

COLUMBUS, Ohio (EP via RNS) -Gov. James A. Rhodes signed into law here a clergy confidentiality act. The new statute, which being the person who fired six shots comes effective Oct. 22, exempts at the pair from a field near the clergy from being required to testify in court about matters reboth young men worked, Northwest vealed to them as religious coun-

The measure was initially defeated in the state Senate last precise wording would allow the law to be abused by "mail order" ened up and it passed both houses of the state legislature overwhelmingly.

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M. (EP via RNS)-The American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico has threatened to sue Bernalillo County unless the county's official seal, emblazoned with a religious cross,

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and site of the city of Albuquerque.

New Mexico ACLU Executive Director Grace Williams, in a letter to County Manager Alex Abevta, said, "The cross is a Christian symbol which cannot be preferred over any other religion. The American Civil Liberties Union has long opposed any state action which establishes a religion, supports a particular religion or prohibits any person from practicing whatever religion he or she chooses."

CONCORD, N.H. (EP via RNS) -A federal jury here has awarded \$30,000 in damages to a New Hampshire man who claimed the Unification Church violated his right of parental custody in recruiting his daughter.

Donald Kieffer had sought \$1 million in damages, charging that the church "depriveed him of his natural parental right" by recruiting his daughter, Jana, when she was a minor and that the church "continued to exercise mind control techniques" over her. Miss Kieffer, now 21, joined the Unification Church in 1975 when she was 16. Church officials say she was introduced to the sect by her mother, Gloria Kieffer Paradis, who is divorced from Donald Kieffer, and be confusing since we have other is a member of the church.

Jana Kieffer has remained active in the church and testified quently. His address is: against her father at the trial. Mr. Kieffer testified that he would Sovereign Grace Baptist Mission, "give up everything" to get his daughter back.

OKLAHOMA CITY (EP)-Jack L. Gritz, former editor of the Baptist Messenger, news magazine for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, has filed a \$400,000 civil suit charging six fellow ministers with slander. Filed in Oklahoma County District Court, the suit alleges the defendants, acting "in concert," made slanderous statements to obtain his dismissal as editor. Mr. Gritz was terminated by the state convention's board of directors last September, after 30 years as editor. Mr. Gritz' suit claims the six defendants spoke, published and circulated information alleging him to be "a very sick man."

JACKSON, Miss. (EP via RNS) -Jeff Hare broke his 206 rock 'n roll albums and 105 hit singles on a recent Wednesday night here after Calvary Baptist Church's youth service. Before the service, a number of other youths filled two metal drums with broken records and tapes at the church. Young Hare's musical library, at today's prices, was worth about \$2,000.

Yes, it was a large investment, but "a bad investment," said Mr. Hare, a 1980 graduate of Jackson Prep who this fall starts his freshman year at the University of Mississippi. Mr. Hare said he and seven through 12 turned against rock music at a church camp at Roosevelt State Park.

"It wasn't like there was a

Missionary To New Guinea Eld. Fred T. Halliman



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ELDER FRED T. HALLIMAN, P.O. Box 19, Koroba, via Mendi, Papua, New Guinea.

blinding light," he said. "We're not holy rollers or anything like that."

Instead, Mr. Hare said, the seeds of their anti-rock stance were sown one evening by the week's guest speaker, Tony Dyer, minister of youths at the First Baptist Church of Winter Park, Fla. "It was just logical. It just made sense the way he explained that rock 'n roll is evil," Mr. Hare said. "I saw that I didn't have a single record that was religious. Not one." * * *

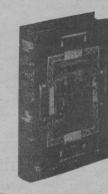
WASHINGTON (EP via RNS)-Growth in the divorce rate, after a brief leveling-off period, has resumed again in the United States, according to new figures reported by the National Center for Health

Statistics. Final figures for 1978 show there were 1,130,000 divorces, an increase of 39,000 over 1977, and provisional figures for 1979 show another gain of 40,000 divorces. The national divorce rate in 1978 was 5.2 per cent per 10,000 people, compared with 5 percent per 1,000 people in 1976-77.

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Clinging To The Altar

(Continued from page 3) many doctors, but she had gotten worse instead of getting better. One day Jesus was going to a house to heal and to deal with the daughter of Jairus who was sick, and who, in the meantime, died before Jesus got there, and Jesus raised her back to life. As Jesus was going to this house to minister to the daughter of Jairus, this woman who had an issue of blood came along behind him in the crowd and said, "If I can but touch the hem of His garment, I'll be made whole."

The Word of God says that she crept up and touched the hem of Jesus' garment and the flow of blood was staunched immediately. She was healed at once. What did she do? "If I can but touch the hem of His garment."

May God help you, sinner friend, to take that same position and say, "By the grace of God, I will touch Jesus. I'll depend upon Him, I'll receive Him. I'll receive Him as my Saviour, and I'll begin to walk with Him today."

external ordinance or some external rite, or depending upon what neral, but may God help you to go out depending upon Jesus Christ. As the old song says:

"On Christ, the solid Rock, I He previously forbade. Again,

stand: All other ground is sinking sand."

God help you to trust my Jesus this morning, and be saved before you leave this place. May God bless you!

Ballag |

Abraham's Children

(Continued from page six) doing, they not only failed to do God's will, but were workers of iniquity! By dent of claiming clemency on the basis of their works, they brand themselves as unsaved. Because Revelation 5:9 tells us that those in Heaven, instead of boasting of what they had done (as those of Matthew 7:21-23) praise the blessed Saviour for having saved them.

A DARK PICTURE AND THE REMEDY

Such people want the prestige of church membership, and to be in the limelight while talking with tongues (?) etc., but resent the Lord telling them to do anything. No gratitude, no love to Him, no feeling of responsibility toward God help you to go out of this their Creator! They reject God's place, not depending upon some commands. For example, some claim to be living without sin, and yet advocate that women speak in the preacher might say in a fu- church services although aware that the Lord forbids it (I Corinthians 14:34). Certainly the Lord will not prompt anyone to do that which

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professed Christians unhesitatingly charge God with lying, by refusing to believe that when the Lord really saves a man, He gives him eyerlasting life (I John 5:10-12; Romans 8:37-39; John 3:14-18; 10:26-30). Furthermore, seldom is found one who will admit that a woman is free to remarry only after her husband is dead, although this illustrates the very manner in which a sinner dies to the claims of the law he has violated (Rom- ian. ans 7:1-4, Galatians 2:20). In rejecting such plain passages which are not contradicted by any other passage, evidence is utterly lacking of a faith like Abraham's. He offered no excuse. He could have said, "Lord, you promised the Saviour through Isaac's posterity. Surely I have misunderstood. I cannot slay my own son. Oh!! let me off from this." None of this. Nor did he have to be told the second time: He obeyed promptly. Christians recognize the Lord's right to command. Remember, Abraham is the father of the faithful (Romans 4:1, 16; Galatians 3:7). Our Lord said "If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham" (John 8:39). Implicit obedience is the hallmark of Abraham's children. Do your works and mine prove that we have the same kind of faith which Abraham displayed?

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

BILL MAYES Tampa, Fla.

I Thessalonians 5:9.—"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ."

Almost without exception, Bible Students will admit that much is said about Election in the Scriptures, but due to their flesh being contrary to a hearty acceptance of the Bible Doctrine of Unconditional Election, many try to avoid the Subject or, even worse, to excuse God for electing, by presenting Alibis for God on the Subject.

The most popular form of alibi is that known as the subterranean Lapsarian view, which says that God wants to save all and has voted for all to be saved; Satan wants none to be saved so he has voted NO on all. Then when man is presented with the Gospel, he can if he will, cast the deciding vote and elect himself.

The Sub-Lapsarian view is that after God was disappointed in Adam, when he sinned in the Garden, that God decided to send His Son to die for all the human race. Then because God knows all things and knew those that would accept Christ, He chose or elected on the them. basis of His seeing those He elected as those that would accept Christ.

The Infra-Lapsarian view says that the Election that was finished before the world was formed, was God looking over the future race of their way to Hell, then seeing their need for a redeemer, God determined that He would choose some out of the race of men, and give them to His Christ to Redeem.

Before we consider the Supra-Lapsarian position, let us relate the meaning of Lapsarianism. Which is to say that God in making His Plan, looked the human race over and chose some, as His mind considered certain matters, allowing His Mind to only contemplate certain things, to the exclusion of all else. Simply defined Lapsarianism means that a lapse of thought in the Divine Mind was His only consideration at any point in His Deliberations.

We have used only four definibegan with the least Grace honoring definition, which is man electing himself. Actually, the next highest form is little more, if any, Enclosed \$_____ for ____ Subs more honoring to Grace, for it says that God waited until He saw what Adam was going to do before He made His plan and elected anybody, this form being Sub-Lapsar-

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God saw man's need of redemption and considered it when He before time elected some in Christ. We reject this also because this the basis of man's need, rather than on the basis of God's Pleasure and does not honor Free and Namely, Infra-Lapsarian.

either good or evil on their part.

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anything seen in man, either good or evil is NOT Unconditional and does not give full honor to Free and Sovereign Grace.

In Romans 9:11-13 we see this illustrated for the thirteenth verse declares that God loved Jacob and hated Esau, then in the eleventh verse it is declared that God's Love and Hatred were NOT based on any good or evil that they had done, nor that God had forseen in

hated His Esaus, without consideration of merit or need on their part. He saw them only as objects of His Love or hatred based on the Attribute of His Pleasure, choosing His Jacobs in what is called a state mankind as a fallen race, and on of Innocence. God actively rejected the Esaus while they were con-

Now God loved His Jacobs and

sidered even as to merit or need in The next highest form says that the same condition as the Jacobs.

Some reason that God only loved Esau less than Jacob, rather than actually hating Esau as is plainly stated in Romans 9:13. We answer thought says that God elected on this position by saying that their reasoning in reverse would say that God really hated Esau more than He did Jacob. Now we affirm that Sovereign Grace, administered on the Hatred of God is not like the the basis of Sovereign Pleasure. hatred of man, for it is like all other emotions of the Divine, just Supra-Lapsarianism says that as eternal as God is. This truth de-God ONLY considered His own clares that there never was a time Pleasure in the Election and elect- when God did not love Jacob and ed some, without consideration of never was a time when God did not hate Esau.

God's Jacobs have never been God's Pleasure and is based on under Wrath of God, for they have never been considered in a state of Evil, but always are considered in Christ, where God's Wrath has never been, nor will it ever be. Amen!

> Truly God knew that Adam would fall and plunge the whole human race into sin, for God Decreed the fall, we are only saying that God's considerations did not take into account the fall when He elected His Jacobs. While at the same time God rejected the Esaus to the Glory of His Wrath to shew forth the Glory of His Grace by contrast. Read Romans 9:18-24.

Some would say that this makes God unjust, so we simply ask you to read Romans 9:19-23! Amen!

We are Unconditionalists and Supra-Lapsarians and cannot read the Passages found in Ephesians 1:4-6, without having our position affirmed to the rejoicing of our very beings. Amen.

"According as he hath chosen us (Jacobs) in him (Christ) before the foundation of the world, that we (Jacobs) should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us (Jacobs) unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us (Jacobs) accepted in the beloved." Amen!

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