

THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE

There are ordeals in our lives, which may suddenly trip us, like stumbling stones on our way up the mountain. And vexations dark and grievous as deep pits in our pathway through the valley.

But love, God's love brings a soothing balm of comfort to those, even in the cruelest of adversities.

There are times we feel guilt and times we feel shame. Or maybe another has given offense or found fault. Either way, there is usually regret.

Love, genuine love covers guilt and shame; melts away offenses and fades away regrets into the quickly passing time.

Gulfs or chasms can grow between family or friends with the passing of years or they can rise-up suddenly as a quake in the earth.

But love builds bridges and can span any gulf or mend any chasm.

Someone you love has caused your heart to ache, has caused your pride to suffer.

Love does not bite back. Love prays for someone and the wounds

are healed.

There are those sick or weak in body, mind or soul.

Love will support and give and try, but not to the exclusion of other loved ones.

There will always be vales of tears and nights of such darkness, you can not press on.

But love shines its light when God's morning is due and never turns a cold ear to the sobbing of your tears, but wraps its warm arms around your fearful trembling heart.

I Corinthians 12:31 says to earnestly desire and zealously cultivate the greatest and the best, the highest gift and choicest grace, LOVE.

In a day when marriages go sour, families divide and even friendships are torn asunder; seek the choicest grace, God's love, a selfless love, that we His people may live in harmony with one another instead of separating from one another.

I Thessalonians 5:15-16: "See that none of you repays another with evil for evil, but always aim

to show kindness and seek to do good to one another and to everybody. Be happy in your faith and rejoice and be glad-hearted continually — always."

Oh, for more smiles and fewer long faces, more sweet words and fewer criticisms, more warm hugs and fewer cold partings. For God says we should not deceive or delude ourselves, . . . "for whatever a man sows, that and THAT ONLY is what he will reap" (Gal. 6:7).

But, if you are in "the faith" and in "Christ's love" BE HAPPY! Rejoice with thanksgiving and share your faith and love, for there are those deserving and desirous of your fellowship. And when sharing, you are never alone.

I Corinthians 13:13 says: "And so faith, hope, love abide; (faith, conviction and belief respecting man's relation to God and divine things; hope, joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation; love, TRUE affection for God and man, growing out of God's love for and in us), these three, but the greatest of these is love."

MISSIONARY PREMILLENNIAL BIBLICAL BAPTISTIC

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

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JESUS' MOTHER

WILLARD WILLIS
Monroe, Ohio

"Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene" (John 19:25).

There were at least three separate groups standing by the cross on this momentous occasion in history. These three groups were made up of evil Jews, Roman soldiers and a very special group of whom one of them was the mother of Jesus.

The Holy Spirit has chosen to have a record made of the fact the Lord's mother and others were present at the cross. We, of course, know that this record was made for our learning. Let us, then, by the aid of God the Spirit, seek to learn all that we possibly can relative to the record before us.

You will observe that this special and select group who had gathered at the cross was made up of four women and one man. The first person mentioned by God the Spirit was Jesus' mother. One wonders what was going through her mind as she observed her son with nails through His hands and feet and His visage (appearance) marred more than that of any man (Isa. 52:14). It is likely that she was remembering the following words which had been spoken to her as recorded in Matthew 1:21.

"And she shall bring forth a son,

and they shall call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins."

I'm sure that the prophecy regarding a sword piercing through



WILLARD WILLIS

Mary's soul was being fulfilled at this time. The prophecy reads:

"(Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:35).

A second person who stood by as our Lord hung on the cross was Mary the wife of Cleophas. There is very little recorded regarding her, but there is an abundance of

love set forth in that which is recorded.

A third person who stood there at the cross was Mary of Magdala. It was from this woman that our Lord had cast seven demons. She, as you may remember, was the first person to whom our Lord appeared after His resurrection.

There was also another person at the cross who is identified as "His mother's sister." The reference to "sister" is probably a reference to a sister-in-law, since

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The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by John R. Gilpin

JUDGMENT IS COMING

"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" (I Peter 4:17).

Sometime ago as I was reading from God's Word, I was impressed by a Scripture which tells us of some of the games which children played in the days of Jesus. If you will read Matthew 11:16-17, you will find the Lord Jesus tells us of two games which the children enjoyed in His day. Listen:

"But whereunto shall I liken this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows, And saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented."

This would indicate that in Jesus day the children played weddings and funerals. As I was meditating upon this verse of Scripture, I was impressed by the fact that years ago in my first pastorate, two little children came to services regularly and then went home and played church. The little boy,

about two years of age, would play the part of the congregation, and he would sit on the stair steps; his bigger sister, about four years of age, played the part of the preacher, and she stood down at the foot of the stairs. These two went through the service as I did on the Lord's Day. They would do fairly well during the part of the service when both of them could take part, but when ever the "preacher" would ask the "congregation" to be quiet so that they could have prayer, sometimes the

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

PROGRAM

Calvary Baptist Church ANNUAL BIBLE CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 27

Wednesday Evening 7:30

Joseph Wilson ----- Grace Baptist Church
Winston Salem, N.C.
Willard Willis ----- Northland Missionary Baptist Church, Columbus, O.
Monroe, O.

Thursday Morning 9:30

James Hobbs ----- Kings Addition Baptist Church
South Shore, Ky.
Dan Phillips ----- New Testament Baptist Church
Bristol, Tenn.

Dismissal at 12:00 for Dinner

Thursday Afternoon 2:00

Jon Rule ----- Zion Missionary Baptist Church
Taylor, Mich.
Ray Brown ----- Indore Baptist Church
Indore, W. Va.

Evening Break

Thursday Evening 7:30

Oscar B. Mink ----- Sovereign Grace Baptist Church
Mansfield, Ohio
Lawrence Crawford ----- Hayward Missionary Baptist Church
Hayward, Ca.

We sincerely trust that you make your plans now to be in attendance with us and hear these outstanding men proclaim the Word of God.

HOW IN GOD'S GRACE, HE SAVED A CATHOLIC

MARGARET J. SMITH

I was born into a Catholic home. My father died when I was quite young, and I was brought up by my mother and grandmother. Our family were very devout Catholics so I was offered to be a nun. I attended the Catholic school and came into close contact with the nuns and priests spending much of my spare time reading books of church history and lives of saints.

When I was eleven years of age, I was confirmed and received my first Holy Communion. That was a memorable day for me and again I pledged my life to the church.

God had blessed me with a natural singing voice, and every day I sang the Latin Mass and songs, even though it was only from my throat—not from my heart.

My life was a lonely one. I had friends but not one in whom I could confide and think aloud. My mother and grandmother were busy and did not share the same views as I had, so I lived in a world by myself—deep in my thoughts and books. It was a hard, cold life, yet it was God's own training place for me. Many times, alone in my room, I would cry and agonize as if my heart would break, calling out to someone to make me happy, for I realized I was very unhappy but knew not the remedy. I didn't know that there was One who loved me with an everlasting love.

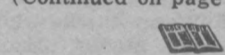
One night, in church, my attention was drawn to one of the beautiful windows—it portrayed Christ as the Good Shepherd, and the sheep with Him seemed so peaceful. My heart ached for that peace but I didn't know what was wrong. I would make many novenas and send up many prayers but—no peace.

There were several things in the Catholic system that puzzled me. On Saturdays the nuns baked the communion wafers in a big flat

pan and allowed me to eat what was left after they had cut out small, round pieces. Then on Sunday, this same substance was changed into the body of Christ. This indeed was a mystery. Also, not eating meat on Fridays and going to confession when I always had the same sins to confess bothered me a little, but my faith in the great church system was still strong. My activities changed when I attended high school and for the first time in my life mingled with those who were not of my "faith," but I still attended to my church duties very faithfully.

I started studying voice with a teacher in Chicago. There was another girl from my school who also studied with him. This girl was the soloist at the Baptist Church. When she left to go on a singing tour, it was suggested that I take her place as the soloist in the church. I was aghast . . . a Catholic girl who was going to be a nun sing in a Baptist church!

I had never been inside a church of any other faith than my own. I talked it over with my priest,



HOW YOU SHOULD MAKE YOUR WILL

You do not have a right to leave your money to anyone you wish. Of course, the law of the land permits you to make your will as you please, and even if you leave it to establish a home for pet humming birds, your wishes will be followed out, but the law of the God undoubtedly will hold you responsible if you leave any of your money to anyone who is not born again, even if he is your own child.

A report from London, recounts that Edward John Dene, a school principal, made this provision in his \$56,000 will, which was probated recently. "Any beneficiary who is an atheist, or openly professes a disbelief in the existence of God, or is a member of any society, association, organization, or body which supports Communism, shall forfeit all rights under this will."

It would be a good thing if people who have some of the Lord's money to leave would see to it, that none of it goes to any human being who would dissipate it in godless living, in support of modernistic unbelief, or in any other way that would be contrary to the will of God as set forth in the Word of God. After all, Christ said, "He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me" (Mt. 10:37). It would necessarily follow that if you do not think more of Christ than you do of some physical heir who is not living in accordance with the Word of God, you are going to be held responsible when the time of judgment comes.—Eternity,

UNIONIZED PREACHERS

A minister in the Pittsburg Press says that 75,000 ministers of the National Council of Churches are ready to strike for additional benefits. These demands, he says, include two dollars for each call in the home and five dollars for hospital calls outside of the immediate community. Double time will be charged above the eight hour day and time and a half for holy days as Christmas and Easter. They also are ready to bargain an old age pension, telephone and utility expenses, travel expense and books for library.

Nothing is said about when the picketing will begin. But we suggest that church members be prepared to postpone all sickness, marriages, conversions, deaths and funerals until these clerical grievances have been adjudicated.

The Baptist Examiner THE BAPTIST PAPER FOR THE BAPTIST PEOPLE

JOHN R. GILPIN, Jr.
Acting Editor

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Judgment Is Coming

(Continued from page 1)

"congregation" would interrupt, and make noises during the prayer.

One day the mother told me she heard the little girl, in the course of her prayer, say, "Now, Lord, please excuse me while I tend to my brother."

As I was thinking of that experience of the long ago, I was reminded, beloved, that a lot of people are just playing at this matter of church going. I am impressed that the majority of preachers are just playing church, and I am satisfied that a great majority of the folk who claim to be members of a church don't take their responsibilities with one whit more weight or gravity than though they were playing church.

I
THERE ARE SOME REASONS WHY THE MAJORITY OF FOLKS ARE JUST PLAYING AT THIS MATTER OF CHURCH.

Our churches are just filled with worldliness. You can't carry on church services that will please the Lord when your church is filled with ungodly "hellions" that don't know the first thing about the grace of God. That is just playing at religion.

Look at it from the standpoint of the pulpit. The majority of messages that are preached on any Lord's Day are nothing more or less than polished essays. There will be a great deal of talk today about the Fatherhood of God, the love of God, and making the world better by the way in which we live, yet, beloved, there will be very, very little positive, dynamic preaching of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ which alone can save sinners.

As long as the pulpit gives forth an uncertain sound, and as long as our churches are filled with ungodly worldlings, who know not the grace of Jesus Christ, then, beloved, we are doing nothing more than marking time—we are just playing church.

I have here a letter from a man who is a member of the historic and great old church of which Brother H. Boyce Taylor was pastor for thirty-four years. This man is one of the laymembers of

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
OCTOBER 25, 1980
PAGE TWO

BRIEF NOTES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Does anyone have some old bound volumes of TBE that they would like to dispose of? Elder Edmond L. Dempsey, 515 North Gilmer Park, Johnson City, Tenn. 37601, would like to purchase any old ones which he doesn't have. Please write him direct or phone him at (615) 928-4775.

that church, and he was lamenting the sad state of spiritual affairs within that church. He admits, in this lengthy letter of some seven or eight pages, that their membership has doubled in the last 3½ years, that they have grown from approximately 700 to now approximately 1400 membership, yet he says that of recent date after they had closed a revival meet-



JOHN R. GILPIN

ing, that on the Wednesday night following the closing of that revival meeting, that by actual count there were only 49 in the prayer service.

Beloved, imagine a church with a membership of 1400 and with an unusually able pastor, with a prayer meeting attendance of less than 5 percent! That church isn't by itself. It isn't an isolated case, but rather I am satisfied that it is characteristic of the majority of churches of America. It is nothing more than playing church.

I have a feeling that the majority of people who have professed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and who have united with a church, could be characterized and illustrated in this respect: You walk down a corridor in a hotel. You find a sign hanging on one of the doors—"Do not disturb. Man sleeping." I believe that the majority of professing Christians might well have such a sign hanging about their neck for the great and preponderant majority of professing Christians are asleep and don't want to be disturbed.

I don't know of anyone who has any more of an unpopular task than a pullman conductor, especially from four to six o'clock in the morning when it is necessary that he make certain calls and wake certain passengers. I say, beloved, it is an unpopular task that a pullman conductor has from four to six o'clock in the morning. Beloved, as I stand before the majority of people that I preach to, I am satisfied that I as God's minister and every other man who is the minister of the Lord Jesus Christ, has just as unpopular a task, the task of awakening people who don't want to be awakened.

Beloved, we are just playing at this matter of going to church. The world is going to Hell in high gear while God's people are standing idly by. While God's ministers are failing to give a dominant certain sound from the pulpit, the world goes to Hell in droves, and nobody seems to care.

II
GOD'S JUDGMENT FELL UPON OTHERS IN THE DAYS GONE BY.

Go back to the days of Noah. God judged that antediluvian civilization with the tremendous judgment of a devastating flood, all because men and women didn't serve God like they should. That flood that came upon that civilization to send them forth into eternity—that flood came only because religion and spiritual life, got down to a low ebb, just like it is

Dear Calvary Baptist Church:

I want to thank you very much for the books that Mrs. Philipps ordered from you. I think they arrived by boat and just got here. The marked portions in "50 Years in the Church of Rome" are just the ones I would want to mark myself. I loaned that book out and someone never returned it, so I am very happy to see that book again. I checked in the Chicago Public Library and in the McCormick Seminary records of Presbytery and Charles Chiniquy had signatures in quill writing, so I know it's true. I like the part where Abraham Lincoln defends him the best.

I haven't finished the 2 Babels yet, but they are quite correct in believing that many of the ceremonies and rituals in the present Catholic church were first done in Pagan Babylon. The hill people here are pagan and are in fear of the evil spirits. The Lowlanders are Roman Catholics, but its a thin veneer over the old doctrine, etc. Praise God there are home Bible classes where there are some break throughs and some strong churches are forming to feed the sheep.

Please pray for us as there are bombers downtown who are trying to blow the country up. Who knows how much longer we have here. We trust the Lord is blessing you there.

In Christian Bonds,
Molly Johnson
Philippines

in America today.

In that day there was one faithful man by the name of Noah. He had three sons and they had a wife each. Noah and his wife, his three sons and their wives were the only ones out of that ungodly and worldly civilization that loved the Lord.

Beloved, look at the waters as they came down out of the sky. Look at the springs of the fields as they burst open from underneath. As the water comes up from beneath and as the water comes down from the skies above, that old earth is devastated with a flood, the like of which we have never seen or never witnessed. People fled to higher grounds, then to still hilltops, and then to the mountains. The wild beasts as well as the individuals went up to the tops of the mountains. Ultimately, beloved, the waters covered the highest hills and that ungodly, antediluvian civilization that had no room for God was wiped out with a judgment, all because they didn't have any room for God.

In the Gospel of Matthew we read of a striking and characteristic statement relative to those days. Listen:

"But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark" (Matt. 24:37-38).

I verily and firmly believe that the days of Noah are upon us this day.

People are thinking about the world. They are thinking about this life, and the things of God are sadly and woefully neglected. If God sent a judgment upon that antediluvian civilization when they were only playing at religion, I say, beloved, God will do the same with this generation, who are only "playing church" today.

That isn't the only group that God has judged. If you will turn to the Word of God, you will find that God sent judgment upon the people in the days of Lot. Out of four cities, all of which were burned up with a fire from Heaven, only four people started to make their escape. One of those four was Lot's wife, who was turned into a pillar of salt. Two of those were Lot's daughters, who had already become so contaminated by the morals of the city, that those daughters gave birth to children by their own father, so that Lot became, at the same time, both father and grandfather to his

ICHABOD OVER AMERICA

ROY W. SNELL
Charleston, W. Va.

I am not one to advocate donning white robes and retiring to the mountain top to await the end, but I do feel strongly that our sovereign Lord has written "Ichabod" over America. And that our universe is on the brink of some unprecedented cataclysmic happening which will spell utter ruin and doom upon all those who are not God's elect.

I have written along these lines before, so if you will forgive the redundancy, I promise that after this warning and admonition I shall "shake the dust off my feet" and trouble you no more with this subject.

daughters' children.

Actually, beloved, out of that civilization of Lot's day, the only one that I expect to see in Glory is Lot himself. I don't anticipate that there will be a man out of those four cities that were destroyed by fire, in Heaven, other than Lot. I am satisfied that Lot's wife, and Lot's daughters, died unsaved. There isn't one hint in the Word of God that the Lord Jesus Christ was their Saviour. The New Testament tells us, however, that Lot was saved, for it refers to him as "just Lot," who was vexed within his soul by the filthiness and the filthy conversation that went on about him day by day. Out of that group just one man was saved. God destroyed that generation because they were just playing at the task.

That is the way that God deals. God just lets a generation go along for a while until the cup of their iniquity is filled. Then God takes them away with a devastating judgment.

Go back, if you will, to the case of the Amorites—the people who lived in the land of Palestine in the long ago. They were the settlers there. They had lived there for years, but they didn't have a place for God—the God of the Bible—in their lives. They were religious and they had a religious ceremony through which they passed, but they didn't love the Lord Jesus, like you and I ought to love Him. Those Amorites went on and on in their ungodliness and their sinfulness for years until God just passed them by and let them do as they pleased. One day God made a revelation to Abraham. He said:

"But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full" (Gen. 15:16)

In that verse God more or less says that the cup of the Amorites was gradually filled with iniquity. It wasn't quite full but some of those days their cup of iniquity was going to be filled to overflowing, and when that day came, doom and destruction and devastation would sweep them away.

Beloved, it took over four hundred years for that cup to be filled with iniquity. One day, God, with a human leader by the name of Joshua, entered into the land of Canaan and, with a swift lightning stroke, conquered the central part of Palestine. Then swinging to the south, and then to the north, they completely conquered the land of Palestine and destroyed those

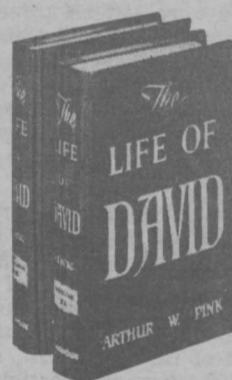
(Continued on page 3, Column 1)

There once was a mighty empire which had power and glory which exceeded that of any other nation known to history. At one time, this fabulous world conqueror had rule over every country from Spain on the east, and from Britain on the north to Egypt on the south. For nearly twelve hundred years she ruled supreme, and certainly, for awhile she must have ruled well. Some historians have suggested that this nation gave birth to the concept and to the words independence, liberty and justice.

It would seem absolutely impossible that such a sovereign as this could collapse so completely and utterly, but that is precisely what happened to that incomparable Roman Empire. Right here it might behoove us all to inquire just why such majesty should be reduced to such a shambles in a relatively short period of time.

There were at first some certain telltale signs—corruption in high places and political polarization and schism (take particular note of those first two signs), a military arm which became increasingly ineffective and a euphoria produced by luxurious living and material prosperity. The bureaucrats in the government proliferated, making it impossible for a wise and forthright administration. Naturally, with this proliferation, there came a heavy burden of taxation. Judges permitted justice to miscarry. Wine and strong drink in excess led to licentious revels and debauchery. Black magic and practices in the occult flourished. Distresses in and against the land, which a few generations earlier would have molded the citizenry with a common purpose, now only served to further embitter and divide the land. Finally, the population became so morally and spiritually bankrupt that when outside threats became serious, they would not, or could not, take the needed measures to protect themselves. It can't happen here. Sound familiar, America?

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Judgment Is Coming

(Continued from Page Two)

Amorites at God's suggestion. Why? Their cup of iniquity was filled to overflowing and God put a stop to their playing at the task of religion.

I tell you, beloved, God through all ages has dealt in judgment, and has allowed judgment to fall after He has dealt in mercy for a long period of time. It was thus in the days of Noah; it was thus in the days of Lot; it was thus in the days of the Amorites; and you might notice the same thing so far as the Jews were concerned. All through the Old Testament the Jews never would serve the Lord like they ought to have served Him. One day God allowed them to go into captivity, all because they hadn't served the Lord like they should. God had given a specific revelation unto the Jews—a revelation of His Son—and had given to them a form of religious worship by way of the tabernacle. God had given them all this and they should have been able to have seen the Lord Jesus in every part of their ceremony, and in every phase of it. They ought to have walked with the Lord closer than any group of people within this world. The Lord spoke to them; He directed them; He led them. The Word of God says that they even had a light that went before them. All they had to do was to look up at that light and move when it moved and stop when it stopped, yet, beloved, they failed God in every particular.

God went along with the Jews, His people, for a while, and God tolerated their carelessness for a while. Eventually, there came the day when a man by the name of Nebuchadnezzar came against the southern kingdom and led those Jews from Jerusalem over into captivity in Babylon for seventy years' time. Why? One reason: They were playing at the things of God, and not taking God seriously.

Before that capacity came, those prophets warned them. Jeremiah pleaded with the people as he walked about the city. As he wept over its sin, he pleaded with the people as he walked about the city. As he wept over its sin, he pleaded with the people, but the people mocked his tears. The prophets of God, one by one, lifted their voices faithfully against the things that the people were doing, yet all to no avail.

Turn, if you will, to the book of Amos and read the story of how Amos warned the people of their sins. He tells how God had chastened them with cleanness of teeth by not allowing them to have food, and he would say, "Yet have ye not returned to me, saith the Lord God." He tells how that God sent devastation by way of the palmerworm and locust and how that crops had been destroyed, yet he would say, "Yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord." He tells how they had destroyed them, and then he would say, "Yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord."

Listen to me, my brother, my sister, as surely as God looks down upon us tonight, you and I can learn from this experience. These people were playing with the things of the Lord and eventually God judged the Jews, just like God judged the antediluvian civiliza-

tion of Noah's day, and just like God judged the people of Lot's day, and like God judged the Amorites. I tell you, beloved, God is a God that judges the world that ignores Him.

We might notice, by way of an example, the people of Egypt. The Word of God tells us how those Egyptians ignored God.

I have often wondered as to the meaning of those pyramids that were built in Egypt, and I can't tell you much about those pyramids. They have been a marvel to me, as well as to many thousands that have studied them, but I am sure that when the final chapter of this world's history is written, we will find that God made a revelation through the building of those pyramids of Himself to the Egyptians. They knew about the Lord, but they didn't serve Him. They had all kinds of gods to serve besides the God that you and I love and serve, and when God finally sent one plague after another upon the land of Egypt, those plagues struck at the false gods and the false deities that the Egyptians worshipped. They worshipped the Nile River, and God turned it into blood. They worshipped the frogs and God gave them a plague of frogs throughout all the land. They worshipped a louse as their God, and God gave them lice crawling upon man and beast throughout all the land. They worshipped flies and God gave them swarms of flies so thick that life was almost unbearable. They worshipped a bull named Apis, and God sent a murrain upon the beasts so that even Apis himself died.

Listen to me, beloved, one time after another, God sent plague after plague on Egypt. It was God's judgment upon a land, upon a people who had a revelation concerning Him, who hadn't lived up to that revelation. Finally, when the land was completely wrecked, and when the crops were completely spoiled, and when the stock were dead, and when the people had suffered until it was almost impossible for them to suffer longer, God finally killed all that land, so there was a funeral in every home throughout all Egypt. Why? Because a people, a nation, a land, had no time for God.

III

GOD'S JUDGMENT IS GOING TO FALL UPON THIS WORLD SOMEDAY.

I am wondering if you and I need to expect that we will be any better off than the people of the days of Noah and in the days of Lot. I wonder if God will treat us one bit better than He treated the Jews. I think not, beloved. We are just merely playing at the task of serving the Lord. We are just about on the basis of children playing games, and our chief game on Sunday is to play church.

Can we expect God's blessings? Can we expect God's forbearance? Can we expect God's tolerance? Can we expect God to continue to overlook us and pass us by? I think not. I am saying to you, there is coming a day when God is going to judge this world—when God is going to pour out judgment upon the people of the world. Why? Because they have forgotten God.

One Friday night some time ago, there was quite a good deal of hail that fell. The result was that a lot of neon tubing in electric signs was broken, and a lot of crops were damaged. In fact, quite



For November 9, 1980

Ruth 2:4-7.

Intro.: May we never lose sight of the fact that the story of Ruth, like all other portions of the Word of God, was written to set forth in type, shadow, and reality the great truths of God. How we need to see the "so great salvation" illustrated and explained as we read through the Word of God (Jn. 5:39; Luke 24:27). We have seen Ruth fetched (II Sam. 9:5) from heathenism to faith in the One True God and from poverty to a ample provisions by the divine providence and purpose of God. Now she is brought to the field and house of Boaz in whom she finds redemption, preservation, and complete satisfaction.

VERSE 4

"And behold." We are called upon many times to look intently at a good deal of damage was done as a result of that hail that fell. Listen, beloved, that little hail storm that came that night amounted to nothing in comparison to what God is going to do some of these days. Listen:

"And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon me a GREAT HAIL out of heaven, every stone about the WEIGHT OF A TALENT: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great." Rev. 16:19-21.

Beloved, this hasn't come to pass, but it is going to come to pass, and it is going to fall upon a generation that is forgetting God.

Listen again:

"And this shall be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes and their tongues shall consume away in their mouth" (Zech. 14:12).

I am frank when I say that I know mighty little about the secrets of atomic energy but I believe that as surely as we are here, that the atomic bomb will make real this Scripture that I have read. That is what God says is going to fall upon a generation that is forgetting Him.

There is coming a time when God is going to do some harvesting. Listen:

"And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in Thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs" (Rev. 14:14-20).

Someday God is going to harvest (Continued on page 8, Column 1)

The Baptist Examiner

BIBLE STUDY LESSON

By WILLARD PYLE

Pastor — First Baptist Church of Naples Park, Florida

the marvels of the grace and greatness of our God in His execution of His mercy extended to the undeserving and the ill deserving. May we even "behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us" (I John 3:1). How many times have we turned aside to "see this great sight" (Ex. 3:3; Rev. 1:12)? It is sad to see so many of God's children beholding the fields of this world which are well watered (Gen. 13:10) instead of beholding the things which are above (Col. 3:1-3).

"Boaz came from Bethlehem." God's redeemer came where she was (Luke 10:33). The owner of the field (vs. 3); he who had power and authority.

Bless the Lord, oh my soul, for our Redeemer also came from Bethlehem (Luke 2:4,11). He came to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:10). He came that we might have life (John 10:10). He came to give His life a ransom for many (Matt. 20:28). He too, was the owner of the field (Col. 1:16,17). Our Redeemer came to Bethlehem by way of Heaven to go to Jerusalem to purchase a possession (Eph. 1:14), and we are brought to Bethlehem spiritually that the new Jerusalem might be brought to us (Rev. 21:1-4).

"And said unto the reapers." This reveals his concern and care for his servants. We too, have the concern and care of the Lord of the harvest (I Pet. 5:7).

"The Lord be with you." We have here the relationship of Boaz, the master of the field, with his servants. This should serve to motivate all pastors to want only the best for the flock over which the Holy Spirit has made him the overseer (Rom. 1:7, as well as in most of his letters to the church-

es). Study closely Numbers 6:22-27.

"And they answered him, the Lord bless thee." Here, of course, we have the relationship and fellowship of the reapers with their master. This is the way it should be in our churches (Heb. 13:17; I Thess. 5:13). Notice also in this dark day of apostasy there were still some in Israel who were faithful to God. This should serve to motivate the few in this day of apostasy (Luke 12:32).

VERSE 5

"Then said Boaz unto his servant that was set over the reapers."

An interesting study is the servants of the Bible; Abraham's servant that was sent to fetch a bride for Isaac (Gen. 24:1-4); David's servant that was sent to fetch Mephibosheth (I Sam. 9:2-5), but the greatest servant of all is the Lord Jesus Christ (Philip. 2:7,8). There is still a need for servants today (Matt. 23:11). This would help to eliminate the pride, jealousy, and envy among preachers.

"Whose damsel is this?" Boaz was immediately drawn to Ruth. Here is love at first sight! This is not a dime novel romance, but one ordained of God. We should again see the blessed providence of God. This was true in our own personal experience.

VERSE 6

"And the servant that was set over the reapers answered and said." This brings out the diligence and faithfulness of the servant, as he took note of all that was going on in the field, as well as those in the field. Preachers should know the flock and keep watch over them.

"It is the Moabitish damsel that came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab." In other words, outwardly or materially, there is no reason to take note of her. We too, were "aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world" (Eph. 2:12). Yes, we were "by nature the children of wrath" (Eph. 2:3), but thank God, "when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly" (Rom. 5:6) and that "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).

VERSE 7

"And she said, I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves." Ruth evidences the spirit of humility, realizing she had no just claim to be privileged to be in the field at all. Like the prodigal son, she was ready to take the lowest position (Luke 15:18,19,21). A truly repentant sinner knows his unworthiness.

"So she came, and both continued even from the morning until now, that she tarried a little in the house." Again, an evidence of her fruit of repentance (Matt. 3:8). Her works were a work of faith and a labor of love (I Thess. 1:3). Her continuance was similar to Acts 2:41,42. The tarrying in the house reveals the necessity to come apart and rest awhile (Mark 6:31). This tarrying in the house a little could very well illustrate the need for the child of God not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together in the house of God (I Tim. 3:15; Heb. 10:25).

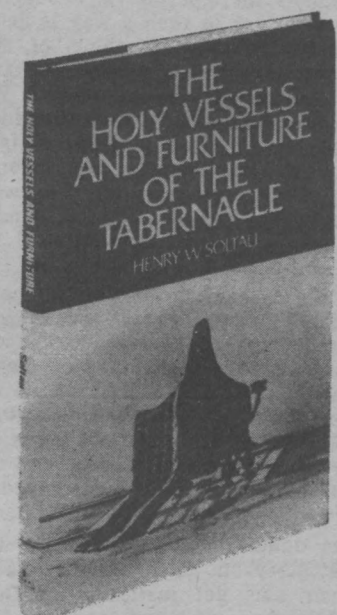
Conclusion: These truths, the Words of God, not mine, should be savored like Job expresses in Job 23:12.

(I apologize for covering so little ground in these lessons, but trust they will be of some help.)

(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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The Baptist Examiner Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

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

"If God works all after His own pleasure (to cite Bro. Mink, TBE Vol. 50, No. 17) could you please expound and explain Ezekiel 33:11?"

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In response to the complaint and reasoning of the house of Israel, the Lord affirmed, through Ezekiel, that "... as I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn ye, turn from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel" (Ezek. 33:11).

In the early life of Israel, as a nation redeemed physically from bondage out of the land of Egypt, they affirmed a law-covenant with the Lord God in saying, "All that the Lord hath spoken we will do" (Ex. 19:8). In this, they evidently did not realize the depravity of their sinful nature, which was later realized in their inability to keep the law perfectly.

Then, again, in Exodus 24:7, they affirmed the book of the covenant, saying, "All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient. And Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord hath made with you concerning all these words" (Ex. 24:7,8).

As David said: "... thou art not a God Who hath pleasure in wickedness ..." so, also, the Lord said: "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; for why will ye die, O house of Israel" (Ps. 5:4; Ezek. 33:11)?

In this plea of the Lord to the whole "house of Israel," "The word of the Lord came expressly unto Ezekiel, the priest," and commissioned him "to go to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled" against the Lord God in an impudent and stiffhearted manner, in departing from the blood-covenant, which Israel had confirmed with the Lord God (Ezek. 1:5 and 2:3).

In dealing thus with Israel, God's absolute sovereignty is exemplified over the responsibility of man, in that God "worketh all things after the counsel of His own will" (Eph. 1:11; Job 23:13; Ps. 11:3; etc.).

This is also exemplified very early in the fact that Adam, in his responsibility for transgression of the covenant with God, suffered the penalty. Yet, though this was not pleasing to God, He will, in His sovereignty, work this out after the counsel of His own will. That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ (Eph. 2:11,12).

So, to be sure, as Brother Mink said, "Where there is no responsibility there can be no penalty, where there is penalty there must be some power able to exact it, and the power to which all men

shall ultimately answer for their sin is the all-sovereign God of the universe." In doing righteousness, the natural man suffers from both, a lack of will and a want of power (John 5:40; 6:44). Natural man is responsible to repent, for God has commanded all men everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30). Man is responsible to be holy (I Pet. 1:16). Yet man in his native state cannot do the first thing pleasing to God (Rom. 8:8). They cannot cease from sin (II Pet. 2:14). However, man's moral and spiritual inability in no way lessens their responsibility, nor does the depravity of their hearts nullify God's right to command perfection of them.

In the case of Joseph's brethren, in selling him into Egypt, Joseph said: "... as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good ... to save many people alive" (Gen. 50:20). Then, also, as to Pharaoh, "... the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for the same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might show My power in thee, and that My name might be declared throughout the earth. Therefore hath He mercy on whom He will have mercy, and whom He will He hardeneth" (Rom. 8:17,18).

Always God works after His own pleasure, though He has no pleasure in wickedness (Ps. 5:4), nor in the death of the wicked (Ezek. 33:11); yet, in His own time, He will turn all to the glory of His pleasure.

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Let me make one thing perfectly clear — there is no "if" about it. To even ask in such a way is deny the plain, clear teaching of the Bible. My friend, you nor I have no right to deny God's Word. We do not have the right to consider God as any less than Sovereign. "... Being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will" (Eph. 1:11. See also vs. 5 and 9).

The passage in question is showing God's mercy and grace even in His sovereign will. God's permissive will allows man to die in his sins. He demands that we repent; when we do not, because of our nature that will not allow us to do so, God sends His grace upon His elect and they are saved.

While He derives no pleasure in the death of the wicked He will get glory out of it. All who die in their sins get justice from God, while those who are saved are recipients of His grace.

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My first impression to this question was to take a page out of the book of one of my grandsons. When he was about three or four years old he was being asked a series of questions. He gave the answer to each one until he was asked one which he didn't know the answer. He quickly turned to his sister and said, "Your turn, Kim." I thought, "Your question, Brother Mink." But then I went back and read the answers given in the Forum concerning the question of God's sovereignty and man's responsibility and then studying the Scripture in Ezekiel, instead of seeing a contradiction, I see a good example of what was said by the writers of the Forum as to the two being parallel throughout the Word of God.

Brother Mink quotes Ephesians 1:11 which says, "For He worketh all things after the counsel of His own will." This shows that God is in absolute control of all things.

As to the verse in Ezekiel 33:11, we see the Lord saying, "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" If we study this passage in connection with the rest of Ezekiel and not take it out of its setting, as too often we are prone to do, we will see a good example of the responsibility of man and the sovereignty of God being side by side.

We see in Ezekiel that God, through His prophet, is telling the house of Israel what is about to take place. Because of their sins and rebellion against Him, they were to go into captivity, their land was to be laid waste, and many would be slain with the sword. He said because of this punishment, Israel would accuse the Lord of not being "equal" (being unjust) (Ezk. 33:17). But the Lord is saying in Ezekiel 33:11 that He is not sending this punishment upon them because He likes to see the wicked die, but it was because of their wicked ways. He urges them to turn from their evil ways and live.

God is seen here as sovereign in the controlling of the events in the nation of Israel yet their responsibility is clearly seen in, "Turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" (Ezk. 33:11).

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"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live ..." (Ezek. 33:11).

I have twice re-read Brother Mink's answer in TBE, Vol. 50, No. 17. I find nowhere in it where he makes the statement referred to in the question. I do find where Brother Mink quotes the Word of God to the effect that God "worketh all things after the counsel of His own will" (Eph. 1:11). There is no "if" as to God working all

after His own pleasure. This is the prominent and oft repeated teaching of the Bible. "He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth ..." (Dan. 4:35). "Whatsoever the Lord pleased that did He in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places" (Psa. 136:6). This glorious, encouraging, and comforting truth is taught again and again in the Bible.

One of the major rules of Biblical interpretation is the "rule of harmony." That is, that any one part of Scripture must be interpreted in a way which harmonizes with all that the Bible teaches on that subject. Therefore, Ezekiel 33:11 cannot be properly interpreted in a way which would be contradictory to the above Scriptures and many others which teach the sovereignty of God over all things.

There is a general call of the gospel and a free offer of the gospel. Thereby, everyone who hears with the physical ear the gospel, is called to come to Christ in repentance and faith, and promised eternal life if he will do this. God is sincere in this call. But no one will ever respond to this call unless there is the effectual work of the Holy Spirit causing him to so respond. But neither this general call or the effectual call is referred to in Ezekiel 33:11.

Please note in verses 2, 7, 10, 11, 12, 17, 20 that this message is pointedly and specifically to the house of Israel. Instead of a life of blessing in the land God had given them, they were now in a death of affliction and captivity because of their sin. In verse 10, they are complaining of this condition, seemingly blaming God therefore, and asking how, since they are under this condition, how shall they live. Their question does not mean they were then in a state of physical or eternal death and does not refer to individual physical or eternal life. But, refers to the death of affliction and captivity they were then in.

Ezekiel 33:11 answers to the complaint of Israel, that it was not because of God's mere pleasure that they were now in this death of captivity, but it was because of their sins. They are informed that it would please God if they would turn from their sins and live under the blessings of God. Verses 12-20 show clearly that the matter of spiritual and eternal life is not under discussion here. If it were, then verses 12-16 would clearly teach salvation by works and that a saved person could lose salvation. Verse 20 shows that, in dealing with His people, God will judge them after their ways and they will live under His blessings or suffer the death of chastisement and afflictions accordingly.

The word "pleasure" must not be taken absolutely here. We must understand that God is pleased when His people live in obedience to Him and thus under His blessings. But we must compare Scripture with Scripture and understand that God is pleased to punish His children when they sin.

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Isaiah 46:9,10 "... I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure."

Revelation 4:11 "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour, and power: for thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created."

Prov. 16:4 "The Lord hath made all things for Himself; yea, even the wicked for the day of evil."

God is infinite in being and perfection, and His essence cannot be comprehended by any but Himself (Rom. 11:33-36). However, there are some things God has been pleased to reveal about Himself, and these revealed things belong unto God's children forever (Deut. 29:29). One of the truths God has made known about Himself is, He is immutable. Therefore, God cannot suffer loss, nor experience gain. Righteousness nor wickedness does not in any way contribute to nor diminish from God's essential glory (Job 22:2-3). Another revelation which comes to God's people by way of Holy writ is, God is omnipotent and omniscient. "He is in one mind, and who can turn Him? And What His soul desireth, even that He doeth" (Job 23:13). God being absolutely sovereign and all wise, has the power and wisdom to infallibly accomplish all His designs, and puny man has no right to ask Him, What doest Thou? (Dan. 4:35; Rom. 9:20).

Reprobation is as much a decree of God as election, and no decree issues from God that is contrary to His pleasure. To say God decrees something which makes Him unhappy is to charge God with foolishness. "Our God is in the heavens: He hath done whatsoever He hath pleased" (Ps. 115:3). God is the eternal enigma, but His saints know that He works all things after the counsel of His immutable and most holy will. Predestination unto eternal salvation and reprobation unto eternal damnation is according to the purpose of Him Who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will (Eph. 1:11). Inscrutable, yea. But more difficult to understand would be a God whose designs could be frustrated by the works of His own hands. Such a god, is the god of the Arminians. The Scriptures are replete with the teaching that God is sovereign and that His providence never miscarries, and the few fragments given above (Isa. 46: 9-10; Rev. 4:11; Prov. 16:4; Rom. 11:33-36; Job 23:13; Dan. 4: 36; Rom. 9:20; Psalms 115:3; and Eph. 1:11) which attest to this (Continued on page 5, column 1)

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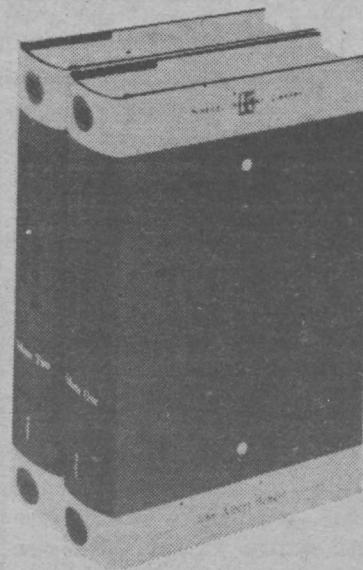
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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

OCTOBER 25, 1980

PAGE FOUR

DANIEL E. PARKS MISSION NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends:

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, "the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, . . . Who is and Who was and Who is to come" (Rev. 1:8).

The Parks family is yet sustained by Jehovah through measures of mercy and grace which are far above our merit—yea, our merit is nil, but His mercy and grace are boundless to us. We have enjoyed good health this past month. Dee-Boy and Christina grow bigger and stronger daily, their rapid growths serving as grim reminders of how quickly time passes. It seems but yesterday that they both were much smaller. Sandy seems to improve with age, and I am yet able to jog my three miles daily. Please pray for our continued health, the salvation of the children, and for Sandy and myself as we strive to teach the children the way of Jehovah.

Our standard of living has taken a giant step backward due to the inability of the US Virgin Islands government to provide electricity. The government is now providing electricity by a stand-by generator reserved for emergencies. The stand-by generator is expected to produce its last watt at any moment, and it is reported that it will be perhaps a year before permanent generators can be installed and put into service. The government has declared a "state of emergency." We have stocked candles, lanterns and fuel, flashlights, batteries for radios, and

other such supplies. We are also preparing for a lifestyle without the conveniences of electrical appliances such as refrigerators, washing machines, etc. We are thankful that the blessings of Jehovah will continue unabated, but we shall appreciate your prayers during this time.

The worship services here continue to be blessed. I am presently approaching the middle of a three month study of the life of Jesus Christ, using a harmony of the Gospels. This study is a part of a course I began in January designed to present the Bible chronologically in one year. The services continue to be attended by visitors. I ask you to continue praying with us about more adequate transportation and a meeting house.

I recently taught a series of lessons on the rudiments of Christian singing, using as my texts Ephesians 5:18-21 and Colossians 3:16-17. Two of the young men of the assembly, though they are both but thirteen years of age, expressed a desire to learn more of the subject. I have encouraged these two young men to help me with the ministry of music, and I am now teaching them to lead the congregation by keeping the beat and time of the music with hand motions. Both young men are enthusiastically progressing, and I covet your prayers for them. Please pray also that Jehovah will raise up a pastor and other spiritual leaders.

Forum . . .

(Continued from page 4)

great truth is, but the wave-offering or token of the great harvest of truth which comes to the heart of those humbled and tutored by the omniscient Spirit of God.

Thus, with the forestated truth in mind, let us consider the text in question, Ezekiel 33:11 "Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" Death in its every form is the result of Divine and penal judgment (Gen. 2:17, 5:5; Rom. 6:23). Simply, death is the decreed penalty for sin, and God's restate for clarity's sake, God decrees only that which is pleasurable to Him.

To take the text under consideration in the absolute sense, would not only have Scripture contradicting Scripture, but would have God decreeing something which caused Him displeasure or grief. Not only is there a sense wherein God takes pleasure in the death of the wicked, but laughs when calamities come upon the wicked (Prov. 1:26). God gets pleasure from righteousness, and all of His judgments are righteous.

Scripture teaches very plainly that God has the indisputable right to do with men, even with a view to their eternal destiny, as He pleases, and when the rich man (Luke 16) woke up in hell, God was not surprised, defeated, nor displeased. The death of the wicked is a means of magnifying God's

justice and securing His holiness. Neither does it prove that the scriptural reproofs of the wicked, and the gospel exhortations of the preacher are all in vain, for some have altered their way of life to more conform with the rules of human decency and have thereby lessened their degrees of torment in Hell. "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way."

God is determined to manifest all of His attributes, and they all are infinitely glorious. Repentance and transformation of life more readily, that is, here and now, glorifies and manifests the attributes of God, than the physical demise of the wicked. The attribute of Divine justice waits for its full fruition on the wicked, and shall not be fully satisfied until the last reprobate is in the eternal lake of fire. The phrase, "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked," cannot be taken in the absolute sense, but rather in the sense that a life turned to God in repentance brings immediate glory to God's great attributes of mercy and grace. "All Thy works shall praise Thee, O Lord; and Thy saints shall bless Thee" (Psalm 145:10).

Let us remember that it was God who hardened Pharaoh's heart, and sent Judas to his own special station in hell. Let us not forget Who it was that sent the flood upon the Antediluvians, nor Who it was that sent the fire and brimstone upon the Sodomites. Neither let the elect forget Who it was that bruised their substitute upon the tree of Calvary, and that He looked upon that scene

Jesus' Mother

(Continued from page 1)

her name is the same as that of Mary. It is not likely that two sisters would have the same name.

It is very significant to observe that each of these three women is named Mary, and it is also significant to note that the name Mary means "bitterness."

There was another Mary in the life of Jesus who was not present and one is given to wonder why she was not there. The Mary I have reference to is Mary the sister of Martha and Lazarus. One would think that she would have crawled, if necessary, to be present at the cross. We know, of course, that it was not ordained that she be there.

There was also a fourth woman at the cross. It is recorded in Matthew 27:56, but John does not make mention of her.

The fifth person who had gathered at the cross with the others was "the disciples whom Jesus loved." It appears that this was the only one of the eleven disciples who had made their way to the cross.

Our text states: "Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother." Doddridge, when commenting on this passage, said:

"Neither her own danger, nor the sadness of the spectacle, nor the insults of the crowd, could restrain her from performing the last office of duty and tenderness to her divine son on the cross."

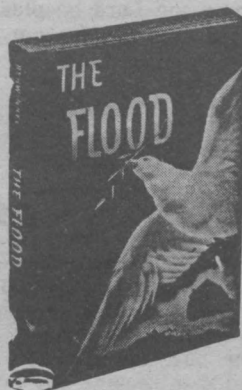
One, in studying the holy Scriptures, will find very little said relative to our Lord's mother. She stood in the shadows while her son stood in the lime-light. This, of course, was the way it should have been since she was only the channel through which our Lord came into the world. She, in fact, as was true of John, was not worthy to tie His shoes. She was human and totally depraved as is true of the rest of us, but her son was perfect. She knew sin, but He knew no sin. Guile was found in her mouth, but none was found in His. Her heart was deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, but

(Continued on page 8, Column 3)

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and His Son, saw His travail and was satisfied (Is. 53:11).

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

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PAGE FIVE

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He Saved A Catholic

(Continued from page 1)

and, to my surprise, he said it would be all right because it would be a paying position and I could keep up my own church, too. Thus, I took my first step to religious freedom and started singing in the Baptist Church.

I shall never forget my first Sunday. I came up the steps, and the strains of "Dwelling in Beluah Land" greeted me. It was a revelation to hear such joyous singing. The Sunday School superintendent met me and invited me inside. I asked him if the church service had begun and he said, "No, this is the closing session of the Sunday School, won't you join us?" I said, "Oh, no, I can't come in now. I can only sing for the church service; that is what I am paid for." So I waited outside the door, like a poor lost sheep, for the church service to begin. The song I sang that day was "The Ninety-and-Nine," and truly I was the lost sheep "far off from the gates of gold."

For over a year I would attend early Mass and receive Holy Communion and then sing in the morning and evening services in the little white church on the other side of town. How the Lord's hand can be seen in it all—that I was allowed by the priest to sing—and that I was allowed by the wonderful group of praying Christians in the Baptist Church, to stay and sing.

By this time I had heard God's plan of salvation and I also read the Bible, which had been a closed book to me before. But I still was not ready to take on open stand for God.

After a revival meeting one summer, the visiting evangelist spoke to me and seemed to make many things plain to me. I had been thinking along the line of the right church—which I should choose, and he pointed out to me that Salvation was something between myself and God—no church could help me.

I went home from the service, and that night knelt beside my bed and prayed for the first time in my life. Oh, I had "said" many prayers but this one came from my heart. God heard and answered it. A great wave of joy came over me as I knelt there. In memory my mind traveled back to the time in church when I had gazed longingly at the picture of Christ and the lambs, and had yearned for the peace I knew I didn't possess. Now, at last, I had the real peace and joy that I had been seeking for so long. I was now a Child of God, and He not only saved me from sin, but made up for all I had ever lacked in my lonely life. I found Him not only necessary, but enough—He com-

pletely satisfied me and became Father, Mother, and Friend-All-in-All to me.

Shortly after my conversion, the priest called and tried to get me back to the "fold" again, and God gave me a wonderful opportunity to witness to Him of my faith and trust in Christ.

Later again, I had an opportunity to witness among my Catholic friends. I was stricken very suddenly with appendicitis and a ruptured intestine, and peritonitis set in. My folks had always been so healthy that we didn't even have a family doctor, so several physicians were called but could not be reached. The only doctor available on that Sunday afternoon was a young man who had just recently graduated from medical school. He was summoned even though not much faith was placed in him—but the Lord's hand could be seen in this because with God's people, things never just "happen." Everything in our lives and circumstances is controlled by His love and power, and we know that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."

After the doctor had made his examination, I was taken to the hospital—it was a Catholic hospital and as I raised my eyes to the cross above the entrance I realized they had brought me to a Catholic hospital to die. I thought of the saying, "once a Catholic always a Catholic, and on your deathbed you will always repent."

Just before I was taken into the operating room, the priest came in with Extreme Unction and intended to administer it to me and also hear my confession. My mother had informed him that I had at one time been a Catholic and he was ready to bring me back to the "fold." I was able to witness to the priest and the nuns in the room, telling them of my faith in God, and in Jesus Christ as my only mediator. I said, "I don't have to confess my sins to any earthly priest. If my God wants to take me home now, I know I will be with Him in Heaven as soon as I leave this earth—but, if His purpose and training for my life is not yet complete, I will live even though the doctors have given up hope for me."

The young doctor asked permission to perform a new method of operation on me because he thought I didn't have a chance to live anyway, and it would be a good experiment. The permission was given and I became guinea-pig number one; but I fooled them all and came through the operation. I was very ill after that, and Wednesday night they thought I wouldn't pull through, but about nine o'clock I rallied and made

(Continued on page 8, Column 3)

APATHY, APOSTASY AND APOSTLES

By G. RUSSELL EVANS

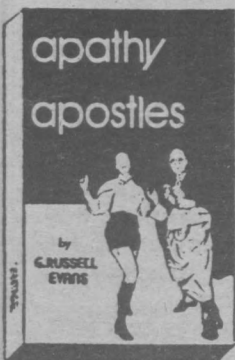
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"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (I Cor. 6:9-11).

There is much being said and written in recent days pertaining to the subject of fit and unfit vessels. It might serve well if each reader carefully and prayerfully considered from where the Grace of God has brought each of us. Were it not for the marvelous Grace of God, we'd be yet in our sins and headed for destruction!

I suppose I am safe to say that since Jesus, the greatest missionary among Baptist ranks, was the Apostle Paul. He, writing under divine inspiration, said, "But by the grace of God I am what I am" (I Cor. 15:10). Whatever you are, you are by the grace of God. But for the grace of God, you and I alike would be the SCUM of the earth.

It is easy for me to pray the Pharisee's prayer and say, "Lord, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican" (Luke 18:11). Seems easy for many folk to see others with their faults and failures, yet when they look at themselves, it's just clean white suits!

Before I proceed, may I pause to say, I'm sure that many will read this and consider me just a young preacher. So be it! The Lord called me into the ministry in 1969. I made it known unto His church and proved my calling before them and was, in due time, ordained by a counsel of sound Baptist men. Maybe I'm just a so-so preacher, but I'm God's freeman. I'm no bond servant of some slave farmer. Surely, my past is a marred one. Surely I traveled through the depths of sin, but, beloved, when God Almighty, by the effectual working power of the Holy Spirit, makes one clean through the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, he is every whit clean. Just who can lay anything to the charge of any one of God's elect? I know people will answer, "None," and then, proceed to bring charge after charge against God's elect. Notice:

I. THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST CLEANSETH FROM ALL SIN. (I John 1:9).

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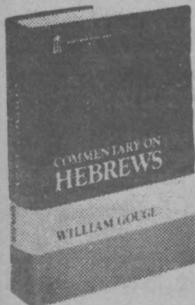
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Verse 11 says, "such were some of you" but thank God, that's not all it says! It says, "But ye are washed." Praise God, washed in the precious blood of Jesus Christ with which none can find one impurity. No leaven about that bath! A bath in God's fountain makes perfectly spotless all that the Spirit plunges into it!

It says more: "But ye are sanctified." Set apart for the Master's use — vessels of mercy, vessels (though unfit) made fit which He had afore prepared unto glory. Being conformed to the complete, perfect image of His Son; the altogether lovely Lord Jesus Christ, the fairest of ten thousand. Oh, beloved, one glorious day we shall be revealed in glory with Him!

Yet, the verse says still more! "Ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit of our God." Just behold this great truth declared just — without charge by God Almighty — on the merit of the pure, perfect, spotless righteousness of the Lamb of God. Yea, clothed in the purity of the Lord Jesus Christ. "As He is, SO ARE WE IN THIS WORLD" (I John 4:17). Doubt that, if you will, and you doubt the inspired Word of God.

Now, I ask you, what could be wrong, in any wise, with this glorious work? It is in and through the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the application of that work by the Spirit of our God. THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD IS ALWAYS, IN EVERY CASE, PERFECT WORK! When He takes into hand to make something clean, beloved, IT IS CLEAN! "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common" (Acts 10:15). Now listen to me: You who single out various vessels of God and call them unfit (unclean, common), you had better beware, for God's eyes are in every place and His ears are ever open to the cries of His people. WE SHALL ALL GIVE AN ACCOUNT UNTO GOD!

II. THOUGH THE BLOOD OF CHRIST CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN, YET OUR VERY BEST IS BUT FILTHY RAGS.

Isaiah said, "All of our righteousnesses are as filthy rags." Isaiah included himself! The very best we have of ourselves in these depraved bodies is but filthy products of a depraved nature that we carry throughout this life right to the grave.

You and I better be mighty thankful that God, in His mercy, hath made us vessels of honor. Fit vessels whether anyone on earth ever recognizes it or not. It takes more than a fancy suit and an elegant address to make one a fit vessel. IT TAKES THE WORK OF GOD; the stripping away of our aprons and clothing us with the garment supplied by God, even the spotless righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ which makes us vessels of honor. That Holy Spirit applied garment—that makes a fit vessel.

III. NOW LET'S CONSIDER HOW GOD LOOKS UPON HIS ELECT.

I Samuel 16:7 says (in part): "For the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance but the Lord looketh on the heart."

Acts 1:24 teaches and declares that the Lord knoweth the hearts of all men. Men have a tendency to judge according to the appearance rather than to make righteous

IS "THAT" IN THE BIBLE?



Question:

TO WHAT ANIMAL ARE BOTH JESUS AND SATAN COMPARED?

Answer: The lion, Revelation 5:4: "And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof." It is evident that here Jesus is meant, for Hebrews 6:14 asserts, "... our Lord sprang out of Juda;" and Revelation 22:16 reads: "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star." First Peter 5:8, however, compares the devil to a lion: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

judgment.

Yet God doesn't change His standard of how He judges men. He looketh on the heart and He judges righteous judgment.

How thankful it makes my soul to know that when God looks upon the elect, whether they be small or great, rich or poor, He sees them as vessels of honor, clothed in the pure righteousness of His Son, and forever they shall stand.

So in conclusion, I bid you, if you dare examine God's elect, you had better do so with great care. For God says, "IT IS BETTER FOR A MAN TO TIE A MILLSTONE ABOUT HIS NECK AND CAST HIMSELF INTO THE SEA THAN TO OFFEND ONE OF THESE LITTLE ONES."

Point one finger on your hand at someone else and there are three of your fingers and the thumb pointing back at you.

So, may the Lord be pleased to use these thoughts for our spiritual good!

Appreciated Correspondence

Dear Calvary Baptist Church:

I just wanted to let you know that I have started getting my papers again. I found out that it was the post office's fault that I had failed to receive any for quite sometime. I do enjoy reading TBE and miss it terribly when I don't get one. You are doing a good work with the paper and may the Lord bless you as you continue in His service.

Sincerely,
Bryan, Texas

Gentlemen:

Please find enclosed a check to help keep the best Christian paper in publication. It is the best doctrinal paper that I have ever had the privilege to read and study along with God's Word for my spiritual food. May the Lord continue to bless you.

In His Name,
Pacific, Missouri

Dear Brother:

I am enjoying TBE and have been for many years now. I have been seriously ill for some time, but my Bible and paper makes me stronger. I want TBE to continue to go to my sister, she loves the paper, too. It has meant a lot to her as she has been confined to a hospital for years but still can read the paper and Bible. Pray for me and my loved ones and I'll be praying for you and the paper to continue until Jesus comes.

Love and prayers,
Eleanor, W. Va.

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

OCTOBER 25, 1980

PAGE SIX

"AND THEY OVERCAME HIM (SATAN) BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB, AND BY THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY."

Revelation 12:11

②

"But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman" — Jesus of Nazareth — whom they slew and hanged on a tree."

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us; for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree."

* Gal 4:4 RV. † Acts 10:38, 39. ‡ Gal 3:13

①

"When the woman saw that the tree was ... to be desired to make one wise, she ... did eat."

Gen 3:6

③

"To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

Rev 2:7

"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree."

that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness."

1 Peter 2:24

THE THREE TREES

E. J. PACE

The forbidden tree of Eden; the forsaken tree of Calvary; the free-gift tree of Paradise; these are the three trees in Scripture upon which hang the issues of human destiny.

What the tree actually was, that proved the undoing of man, we have no way of knowing. It is silly to repeat the common notion that it was the "apple tree." The language in that third chapter of Genesis is highly pictorial, but every item in the picture is faithful and true to universal human experience.

The threefold correspondence between the temptation in Eden and in the summary of things in the world (I John 2:16) is well worth noting:

"All that is in the world, the lust of the flesh the lust of the eyes, and the vain glory of life is not of the father but of the world."

"The tree was good for food" "A tree that was pleasant to the eyes"

"Desired to make one wise" "The woman took of the fruit — and did eat."

There is such a thing as the solidarity of the race. The human race is ONE and in the eyes of God is seen as ONE. "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." (Rom. 5:19). As by one came death, so by another came life. The right to eat of the tree of life, forfeited by our first parents through transgression, becomes ours again, regained for us by Christ, who became sin for us.

And indeed He was made SIN for us, the Son of God forsaken on the tree of Calvary. Because of the sin came the curse, and He became a curse for us (Gal. 3:13) thus redeeming us from the penalty of a broken law. In fulfillment of Scripture He must hang upon a tree (Gal. 3:13 with Deut. 21:23). And have you ever reflected that only by crucifixion could our Lord literally fulfill the prediction of Genesis 3:15, for the nails driven through His feet did actually "bruise His heel"?

But, praise God, the head of Satan shall be bruised under those feet once bruised, yes, and under our feet too! (Rom. 16:20). And even now you and I can triumph over Satan by the "blood of the Lamb, and by the Word of our testimony." Now is the time to assert our independence from the power of the evil one, and having died — we actually did die to sin in the Person of our Saviour (Rom. 6:3, 4, 5)—to sin, might live unto righteousness. The only proof that you and I have the right to eat of the "tree of life, that is in the Paradise of God" is our present overcoming the power of sin, through the blood of the Lamb, and the Word of our testimony.

"LET EVERY ONE THAT NAMETH THE NAME OF CHRIST DEPART FROM INIQUITY" 2 Timothy 2:19.

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

ATLANTA (EP)—Centuries after the Great Schism split the churches of Rome and Constantinople, 60 Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churchmen have begun the task of healing the old wounds and spiritually reuniting almost a quarter of the world's population. Greek Orthodox Archbishop Stylianos, primate of Australia and New Zealand, was chosen president of the 30-member Orthodox delegation in the reunification session held May 29 through June. The primate discussed the talks, held on the Greek islands of Patmos and Rhodes, while he was in Atlanta for the Greek Orthodox Clergy-Laity Congress.

The two churches, which separated in the Great Schism of 1054, have slowly begun turning toward one another, first with what the archbishop called a "dialogue of love" beginning in the 1960's and later with a "dialogue of theology" initiated about five years ago.

In technical meetings during the late 1970's it was decided the seven sacraments, which both churches hold in common, would be the topic of an initial series of talks beginning with the June session.

The reunification of about 200 million Orthodox and more than 600 million Roman Catholics is the "ultimate goal" of the dialogue, but Christians should not expect that within the next few years, he said. Following discussions of the sacraments, all other matters of church doctrine and practice will be considered over a period of years. Somewhere down the road, the primate said, delegations will tackle the issues of papal primacy and infallibility, which he called the "crucial point" of the discussions.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (EP via RNS)—Dr. Joseph H. Jackson, for 26 years president of the world's largest black Baptist denomination, told its national convention here that black people need to start helping themselves, instead of blaming others for their plight.

Addressing the centennial session of the 6.3-million-member National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., he said, "If we speak the truth, we must admit that we carry some of the blame for the evils, the shortcomings, and the crimes

in our own homes and communities. Where there are divisions in our families, in our churches, and social and political organizations, they are organized and carried on by us."

Dr. Jackson admonished that "blackness must no longer be used as an alibi to protect us from our sins. We must set the standards for ourselves as high as possible." Criticizing so-called black theology, the Baptist leader said, "I fear religion that is so motivated by anti-white sentiment that it would make a god out of blackness. We do not need a second-rate religion and a theology without a living God. It matters not how eloquent it might sound, but a theology that substitutes pigmentation for divine principle is not sufficient to save any race or nation from their sins."

Dr. Jackson asserted that the biggest handicap for black people today "is our inability or refusal to organize money and use it as an economic tool for self-promotion and for opening new doors of opportunities. In future years, we should learn how money can be hired to work and make a wise and more creative use of it."

MONROVIA, Calif. (EP) — The African continent may be only months away from massive and widespread starvation and malnutrition, according to a report issued by the Relief and Rehabilitation Division of World Vision International.

Armed conflict, huge population shifts caused by political intolerance, and persistent failure of seasonal rains are some of the elements that have combined to worsen the disaster situation that has been developing for about two years. According to the report, the countries most affected lack even the most rudimentary resources with which to combat the impending famine.

Ethiopia is reported to be the area worst hit by the drought and famine. Ato Tekka, World Vision's Operators Director in Africa, reports that five million people in Ethiopia are seriously short of grain. In the southern region of Sidamo, one-third of the population is reported in grave need. At World Vision's Las Dure Refugee Camp in northern Somalia, 33 percent of the refugee population of 42,000 are children under the age of seven.

The Sahel is the world's largest grouping of least developed countries. Even when the area is unaffected by drought, food availability is meager throughout large areas of Chad, Niger, Mali, Upper Volta, Mauritania, Senegal and The Gambia. Inadequate rains and crop failures since 1978 have plunged the population of the Sahel back into the catastrophic situation faced in 1968-73. Mali is believed to be one of the nations worst hit at the present. It is estimated that 40 percent of the local granaries were empty by early February this year, four to six months earlier than in previous years.

In Uganda, the drought has compounded the problems caused by The Karamoja district, a remote, arid and inaccessible area of northern Uganda, is particularly hard-hit by the famine. Even in the lush areas of Southern Africa, the effects of the continent-wide famine are being felt. In Zambia and Zimbabwe, inadequate rainfall, and massive population shifts have produced food shortages.

RICHMOND, Mich. (EP via RNS)—The demons and devils have gathered more support than pastors in the controversy here over names for school sports teams.

Some church leaders recently petitioned the school board to exorcize the devil as a team mascot. But supporters of the sports nicknames that have been used since

1947 launched a counterattack to retain the names—"Blue Devils" for the high school, "Demons" for the middle school and "Red Devils" for elementary schools.

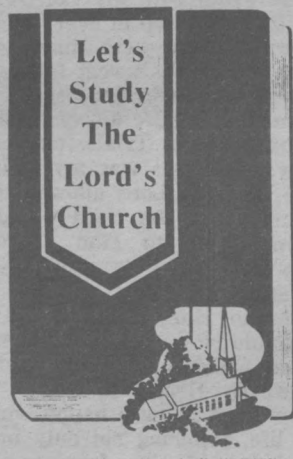
Those supporting the name change gathered about 200 signatures on the petition which charged the names are objectionable and negative. The petition also noted the devil is an enemy of mankind and a demon is one of the devil's workers.

A second petition, signed by over 3,000 people has also been submitted to the school board urging the names be retained. That petition noted it "is evident by looking at the people who have attended school in Richmond since 1947" that the names have "not harmed them morally nor affected their Christianity in any way."

CHICAGO (EP) — Thomas H. Schillinger, ordained minister of the Calvary's Faith Climber Church, opposes drinking, smoking, premarital sex and rock 'n' roll. He says he thinks he can handle his new job because he's "seen a

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 read. This book is a paperback and contains 85 pages.

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lot of situations in 12 years of being alive."

"If I don't know something the Lord will give me an answer," said 12-year-old Tommy after his ordination. "I don't think my age will bother me a bit."

Tommy was ordained by Flossie B. Partlow, the founding pastor of the church, which is located in the city of Moline along the Illinois-Iowa border. The church has about 200 members, although only about 40 to 50 people regularly attend services. Miss Partlow has ordained five other members of the congregation as ministers, including Tommy's mother, Joanne.

"I've always wanted to be a minister," said Tommy, who has been a member of the non-denominational church since Miss Partlow founded it in May 1976.

Miss Partlow, 60, said that about two years ago, "Tommy wanted to be ordained and I told him, no, son, you're too young. But he really lived his life for God." She said Tommy has an extensive knowledge of the Bible and had been giving sermons in the church and traveling to other states with her to do evangelistic work since he was 3.

"I told him your friends are going to make fun of you. You're going to be persecuted. People are

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OCTOBER 25, 1980
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going to say you're too young," Miss Partlow said. He answered: "There are fellows younger than I am trying out for the Olympics. I'm not too young to separate sin from righteousness, I'm not too young to tell somebody about the Lord."

She said Tommy will spend most of his time writing articles for the church newsletter, preaching to the congregation, helping to prepare the church's weekly radio broadcast and going door-to-door spreading the Christian faith.

The pastor said that although Tommy, as an ordained minister of an incorporated church, could legally perform marriages, he has decided not to do so until he reaches the legal age of majority of 18 because he "doesn't want to take that responsibility yet."

He said he takes a fundamentalist view of the Bible—believing, for example, in the Virgin Birth of Christ. He opposes abortion, the Equal Rights Amendment and dancing.

ASHKELON, Israel (EP) — Southern Baptist representatives in Israel expressed dismay at news reports broadcast throughout Israel quoting Southern Baptist Convention President Bailey Smith saying God does not hear the prayer of Jews.

Reports of Smith's comments, broadcast in both English and Hebrew, reached Israel on the eve of Yom Kippur, creating special consternation among Jews and Christians at a time of a national religious observance. "Yom Kippur is the holiest day in the year to the Jews — a day when each one turns to God in repentance to pray for forgiveness," explained Elizabeth Smith, press representative for the Israel mission.

Although emphasizing he had not read the full text of Bailey Smith's statement, James W. Smith, Foreign Mission Board representative in Israel for 25 years, said, "As it was broadcast, the statement itself has the potential of doing great harm to the friendly relations developed between Baptists and Jewish Israelis over the years." In summing up feelings of Foreign Mission Board representatives in Israel, Don Mantooh, acting administrator for the mission, said he and his colleagues "call on our Baptist leaders in America to be sensitive to the feelings and beliefs of our Jewish friends and to the situation in which Baptist representatives in Israel labor."

WHEATON, Ill. (EP News via Religious News Service) — Evangelist Billy Graham said he will no longer invite people to be "born again." But Mr. Graham isn't stopping his Gospel ministry, just changing some of the words.

Starting with his next crusade in Japan the evangelist will urge people to be "born from above." The change in phraseology, Mr. Graham told a group of college students here, is due to media and commercial overuse of "born again," depriving it of its original meaning and turning it into a cliché.

PASADENA, Calif. (EP via RNS) — Stanley Rader, treasurer and attorney for the beleaguered Worldwide Church of God, said that no one — least of all he — will succeed Herbert W. Armstrong, 88, as spiritual leader of the religious sect.

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Even if Jesus Christ does not return to establish His earthly rule over the church, as church members believe He will before Mr. Armstrong dies, Mr. Rader "under no circumstances" will head the 70,000-member church, he said at a press conference in his spacious office at Ambassador College here.

"We don't expect anyone to succeed Mr. Armstrong," Mr. Rader said of the founder-patriarch, who lives in Tucson. "We believe the living God has entrusted Mr. Armstrong with a Great Commission and we know that God has never taken a man before his work was done. We do not look for nor expect another Pastor General." Mr. Rader, 47, said he would return to private law practice as soon as current litigation between the church and the California attorney general's office is concluded.

During questioning, Mr. Rader conceded that final resolution of the lawsuits, initiated in January of 1979, could require six to eight years. Until the lawsuits are settled, Mr. Rader will continue to be paid by Mr. Armstrong for his services according to a contract executed between the two men. Mr. Rader did not specify how much he is paid.

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Judgment Is Coming

(Continued from page 3)
this world when its wrath has run its course. He presents the picture of an angel with sickle in hand, and someday, when the old world is ripe, God is going to harvest it. What a harvest it will be! Blood will run as deep as the horses' bridles for a space of 176 miles. Imagine the carnage when God thus harvests the world.

Men don't think about God today. People live their lives without God. 92 percent of the population of America never darken the church door, and out of that 8 percent that go to God's house on Sunday morning, only 2 percent of them dare to return to the house of God on Sunday night.

Beloved friends, judgment is coming, and God's people ought to be shouting a warning. Every pulpit ought to be giving a warning to men and women to get ready, and to live like saved people ought to live. You can't tell me that God is going to allow this generation to escape better than the generations gone by. If God punished the Jews, the Egyptians, the Amorites, the antediluvian civilization, and the people of Lot's day, God will keep His promise concerning this generation. You and I are just playing about it. We ought to be shouting the message to every individual we meet. We ought to be telling men about the coming judgment.

We ought to be doing our best to warn men about what is coming to pass.

Oh, may God help you and me, as saved people, to stand in the breach and to tell men the blessed story and to warn them as to what is ahead.

CONCLUSION

When those hail stones fall, the size of a cake of ice 300 pounds in weight, I am not going to be here. When the blood runs up to the horses' bridles for a space of 176 miles, I am not going to be here. When men's brains are burned within their skull and when their tongues perish within their mouth, I am not going to be here then. I am going to be with my Lord. I am going to have a ringside seat yonder in the heavens with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Beloved, that day is coming. Every sinner within this house of God, unless you receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour, is going to pass through that. Every person outside of Jesus Christ will spend his eternity in Hell. There will be multitudes saved after Jesus comes, but none that ever heard the Gospel before. Thy only ones that will be saved after Jesus comes are those who never heard of Him in this day.

Sinner friend, with all the earnestness of my soul and with all the pathos of my being, I plead with you for your own soul's sake, that the Lord Jesus might become precious to your soul. Judgment is coming, and there is one way that

you can be ready for it and that is to be saved by the Lord Jesus Christ. I have no other hope for you, I have no panacea, I have no remedy other than the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Then to that individual who is here who is saved, and has never yet professed faith in the Lord Jesus, may God help you to come out on God's side and let your life count for Him.

May God bless you.

He Saved A Catholic

(Continued from page 5)
steady progress after that. I was able to explain this to the wondering doctor and nuns: the whole church prayer-meeting time on that Wednesday night was spent in prayer for me, praying that God would spare my life, if it were His will. My Christian friends proved God's promises, "The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" and, "The prayer of faith shall save the sick."

It was with a deep sense of humbleness and thanksgiving that I came back to my activities again, for I realized that I was yet needed in the Lord's work. I knew He would have taken me home if my work had been ended.

In looking back over the years of fellowship with my Lord I can see His leadership in every step of the way. There were times when I was out of His sweet fellowship because of disobedience to His commands, but He always brought me back again. Trials, too, came my way, for this was my training place, and my Lord allowed these to come that His child would be drawn closer to Him. Through these tests and in completely surrendering my heart and life and talents to Him, I found the unspeakable joy, peace and satisfaction which come only from a life wholly yielded to God.

Now I am living a happy, victorious life, rejoicing not only in the knowledge of sins forgiven, and the daily leading of the Holy Spirit in my life, but in the blessed hope of the near return of Christ, when I will be taken up to be with my precious Lord and Heavenly Father forever.

Jesus' Mother

(Continued from page 5)
the contrary was true of Him.

Mary, nevertheless, received a calling far above that of mortal women and that calling involved bringing the man Jesus into the world. We may say, in fact, that she was present when He arrived into the world and now she is present when He is preparing to leave it. The disciples had forsaken Him. The nation had despised Him, but His mother stood by Him. The love of God is the only love that is deeper than the love of a mother.

It appears that Mary suffered inwardly and quietly as she looked, no doubt, through tears upon her precious Son. She, no doubt, would like to have removed those nails from His hands and feet and to have bathed His wounds. There, however, was no other way for Him to save her and us from endless misery. He, in fact, was dying for His mother as well as for us poor mortals.

The thieves were taunting and the crowds were mocking Him. The Roman soldiers were in a party frame of mind and were manifesting the same by dividing His garments and casting lots for His coat. His mother, of course, was seeing and hearing all that was before her. It is likely, however, that she was remembering Matthew 1:21 which states:

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins."

Our text continues by stating: "When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple standing by, whom He loved, He saith unto His mother, Woman, behold thy son" (John 19:26).

The Lord Jesus was in the process of giving His life a ransom for many. He was in the process of drinking the most bitter cup which

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had ever been drunk. Yet He took time out to honor and recognize His mother. We see, then, that He was not only the perfect Son of God, but also the perfect Son of Man. He was preparing to leave the earth, but before leaving, He would arrange for a home for His mother. He had prayed for His enemies and spoken words of salvation and assurance to the repentant thief; now He addresses His mother.

"He saith unto His mother, Woman, behold thy son."

One, at first glance, wonders why Jesus would call His mother "woman." It appears that such a term, as far as His mother was concerned, was disrespectful. It, however, is only an appearance in view of the fact that He was performing the work of the Son of God and not merely as the son of Mary. Death, in fact, would bring an end to all of His natural ties. It is as stated in the following passage:

"Henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we Him no more" (II Cor. 5:16).

We see, then, that our Lord, by referring to His mother as "woman," was teaching her, that in the future, she would be linked to Him by a closer bond than that of mother. She, in fact, would be linked to Him in a spiritual relationship. She, therefore, was not to look upon Him as her son, but as her Saviour and Lord. She was to look upon Him as her hope for all eternity to come.

"Then saith He to the disciple" (John 19:27).

We read in other places that this disciple was one that Jesus loved. The question naturally arises as to why this disciple did not give his name. Why does he refer to himself as the one whom Jesus Loved? The answer is that he does not consider his name to be important. The only important thing in his life was that Jesus loved him. Would you consider it more important that you loved the President of the United States, or that he loved you? His love for you, of course, would be more meaningful. God's love for us, in like manner, is far more meaningful than our love for Him. All belongs to Him. We, however, are poor and needy and could not help Him if He needed help.

"Woman, behold thy son! ... Then said He to the disciple, Behold thy mother" (John 19:26,27).

This statement by our Lord raises another question regarding why He termed His mother the mother of John, too. The answer rests in the fact that John was to treat her as if she were his own mother. John, in fact, had already taken the first step in this direction that he was by her side to assist her during this most critical hour in her life.

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