

Every soul winner believes in hell.

MISSIONARY

PREMILLENNIAL

BIBLICAL

BAPTISTIC

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The Baptist Examiner

Baptist Is Our Middle Name

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

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WHOLE NUMBER 2315

Conclusion...

ANSWERING SOUTHERN BAPTIST PASTOR(S)

PART III

Having known many Southern Baptist Pastors, Professionals, and Professors across a number of years, I know something of the spiritual grief which they bring upon themselves. As they, you doubtless will use any available rationalization to counter my references to the heresies to which you have committed yourself and your people.

The facts are truly in!

The Word is blasphemed!

You and your fellow pastors are attempting to undermine the churches that Jesus has built. You and your fellow pastors live to negate the testimonies and the teachings of the Apostles. With

the Convention "powers," you and your fellow pastors are attempting to make a mockery of The Cause of the Lord Jesus



RAY WAUGH

Christ.

No word of truth can issue from Convention Councils! Still, you and your fellow pastors have determined to stay with the suprachurch monstrosity called "The Southern Baptist Convention" at all costs. Obviously, you despise both the Sovereign God of the Bible and the infallible Scriptures which so declare Him. You work at establishing yourself a miniscule religious fief within "the kingdom" of the "universal" Southern Baptist Church. You, as your fellow pastors, apparently thrive on the security which your enslavement provides.

(Continued on Page 4 Column 5)

FAITH BURIED BENEATH CLOUDS OF DOUBT

by Willard Willis
Monroe, Ohio

"But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came" (John 20:24).

The disciples had assembled



WILLARD WILLIS

on the evening of the first day of the week, "but Thomas was not with them." Thomas, I'm sure, knew of the meeting, but he chose to stay away. It would be interesting to know just where he was while his brethren had met in church capacity for the purpose of worship. What could have been more important to him than worship service? The significant point in this passage, then, was that Thomas, one of the few, "was not with them when Jesus came."

I'm sure that Thomas had been given the latest report relative to the resurrection of the Lord. Several had seen Him and had made their joyful report. Thomas, however, could not find it in his heart to believe.

It is obvious that the hope of Thomas had been crushed when he observed his Lord being led from the garden to His trial. His hope was crushed further when they nailed his Lord to that old Roman cross. His hope was then buried when his Lord was buried. It was at this point that

he stood empty, or like a man whose house had just been washed away by a flood. His hope was buried like corn is buried beneath clouds of dirt, except that his hope was buried beneath clouds of doubt. This is why we call him "doubting Thomas."

"The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe" (John 20:25, 26).

(Continued on Page 2 Column 5)

THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE

The Bible contains 3,566,480 letters, 773,746 words, 31,102 verses, 1,189 chapters, and 66 books. The longest chapter is the 119th Psalm; the shortest and middle chapter the 117th Psalm. The middle verse is the 8th of the 118th Psalm. The longest name is in the 8th chapter of Isaiah. The word "and" occurs 46,227 times. The word Jehovah 6,885 times. The 37th chapter of Isaiah and the 19th chapter of the 2nd book of Kings are alike. The longest verse is the 9th of the 8th chapter of Esther; the shortest verse is the 35th of the 11th chapter of John. In the 21st verse of the 7th chapter of Ezra is the alphabet. The finest piece of reading is the 26th chapter of Acts. The name of God is not mentioned in the book of Esther. The Bible contains knowledge, wisdom, holiness and love.

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ELECTION

by Ron Boswell
Smithsburg, Md.

1. What does election mean as revealed from the Word of God?

We notice from a study of the Scriptures that this doctrine cannot be hid, for approximately 135 times we find the word ELECT, ELECTION, ELECTED, CHOSE, CHOSEN, in the Word of God. There are also many other references on the subject, so that if they were all missing we would have a much smaller Bible.

Election means that God has chosen a number from Adam's fallen race to be saved through the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. God has a favorite people whom He loved

and chose before He ever hung a star in Heaven or created the world. We read in Psalm 5:12: "...With favour wilt thou compass Him as with a shield." We see God commanding His favour to surround His special people. In Psalm 44:3 we have the only reason given for God's blessing upon Israel: "...Because thou hadst a favour unto them." Why did God choose Israel? Simply because they were His favorite people.

The Bible lets us know that there was no human reason why He should choose the Jew, in fact, there were plenty of human reasons why He should not have chosen them. In Deuteronomy

(Continued on Page 6 Column 4)

ICHABOD OVER AMERICA

by 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 of my feet" and trouble you no more with this subject.

There once was a mighty em-

pire 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

(Continued on Page 6 Column 3)

(USPS 042-340)

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by JOHN R. GILPIN

ETERNAL LIFE INSURANCE

John 10:27-29, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; neither shall any pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand."

I want to tell you about the greatest insurance policy in the world. I am an agent for the company. I represent the King's Eternal Life Insurance Company. It has headquarters in Heaven. The directorate includes God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The President is the King of kings. The General Agent is the Holy Spirit.

I want to offer some reasons

why you should take a policy in this company. First of all, it is the oldest. It has been doing business for thousands of years and it has never changed its policies nor management: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8). "For I am the Lord, I change not" (Mal. 3:6).

It is the strongest of all insurance companies. It has more capital than all other companies combined, for its capital is the "unsearchable riches of Christ" (Eph. 3:8).

It has the largest number of policy holders. In Matthew 8:11, we read that Jesus said, "Many shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of

heaven." Revelation 7:9 speaks of, "A great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne." In Revelations 5:11, we read, "And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands." Bring on your adding machines, your posting machines, and your clerks, secretaries, and stenographers and try to count the redeemed: you will only find that it is "a great multitude, which no man could number."

It has no dissatisfied policy

(Continued on Page 2 Column 1)

Some people devote all of their religion to going to church.

The Baptist Examiner

THE BAPTIST PAPER FOR
THE BAPTIST PEOPLE

JOHN R. GILPIN, Jr.
Acting Editor

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INSURANCE

holders. Not one has been
displeased with the benefits
derived in 6000 years of the
company's existence. Every one
is a booster. In fact, all are an-
xious to get others to enroll.

It is the only company which
insures a man for more than he
is worth. In every company
there is a limitation except in
this one. How much is a man
worth? Paul tells us, "They are
together become un-
profitable" (Rom. 3:12). In
spite of man's valuation, God
insures us for Time and Eterni-
ty.

You need it. How strongly
God urges your need of ETER-
NAL LIFE INSURANCE!
"The heart is deceitful above
all things and desperately
wicked" (Jer. 17:9). "And to
you who are troubled rest
with us, when the Lord Jesus
shall be revealed from heaven
with his mighty angels, in
flaming fire taking vengeance
on them that know not God,
and that obey not the gospel
of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who
shall be punished with
everlasting destruction from
the presence of the Lord" (II
Thess. 1:7-9). "Except a man
be born again, he cannot see
the kingdom of God" (John
3:3). "Marvel not that I said
unto thee, Ye must be born
again" (John 3:7).

II

A policy in this company has
many provisions which no other
policy carries. At the outset, it is
a mutual benefit association.
Every policy holder is given a
joint interest and shares in its
profits. "And if children, then
heirs; heirs of God, and joint
heirs with Christ" (Rom.
8:17).

It provides an unlimited
drawing account throughout
life. "But my God shall sup-
ply all your need according to
his riches in glory by Christ
Jesus" (Phil. 4:19). "If ye shall
ask any thing in my name, I

will do it" (John 14:14).

This policy insures you
against shipwreck in the River
of Death. "Jesus said unto
her, I am the resurrection,
and the life: he that believeth
in me, though he were dead,
yet shall he live: and
whosoever liveth and
believeth in me shall never
die" (John 11:25, 26). In his
early ministry (1869),
B.H. Carroll was holding a
revival under a brush arbor, and
when about half way through
one of his sermons he noticed a
ramshackle mover's wagon stop
in the road, and through a rent
in the dirty wagon-sheet there
looked out a hungry-eyed,
emaciated face of poverty and
suffering. Brother Carroll was
impressed to stop his sermon to
the crowd, and going out he
preached present and eternal
salvation to the dying man. Ac-
cepting the Lord Jesus as His
Redeemer, he was received into
the church. He was so wear, he
had to be baptized sitting in a
chair. A few days later he was



JOHN R. GILPIN

dying. Mr. Carroll, leaned over
him, and said, "Brother Bryan,
you have come to the river. But
in the name of Jesus, I assure
you that in the crossing, you'll
find no river and no darkness. If
God permit you, give us a token
that what I say is true." As he
nodded his head, he seemed to
die. Brother Carroll put his
finger on his eye to close it and
the man, not yet dead, raised his
hand, and with jerking words
said, "Brother Carroll-no-river-
all bright," and died.

"Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning
of the bar

When I put out to sea;
But such a tide as moving seems
asleep,

Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out
the boundless deep
Turns again home."

"Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of
farewell,
When I embark.

For tho' from out our bourne of
Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to
face

When I have crossed the bar."

Further, this policy insures
you against loss in the Great
Judgment Day Fire. I believe in
a literal fire for unbelievers—the
Bible speaks of those who
"shall be tormented with fire
and brimstone...and the
smoke of their torment
ascendeth up forever and
ever" (Rev. 14:10, 11). "And if
thy hand offend thee, cut it
off; it is better for thee to
enter into life maimed, than
having two hands to go into
hell, into the fire that never
shall be quenched. And if thy
foot offend thee, cut it off; it
is better for thee to enter half
into life, than having two feet
to be cast into hell, into the

fire that never shall be quen-
ched: Where their worm dieth
not, and the fire is not quen-
ched. And if thine eye offend
thee, pluck it out: it is better
for thee to enter into the
kingdom of God with one eye,
than having two eyes to be
cast into hell fire: Where their
worm dieth not, and the fire is
not quenched" (Mark
9:43-48). However, the believer
is safely insured against this
day. "There is therefore now
no condemnation to them
which are in Christ Jesus" (Rom.
8:1). "Verily, verily, I
say unto you, He that heareth
my Word, and believeth
on Him that sent me, hath
everlasting life, and shall not
come into condemnation; but
is passed from death unto
life" (John 5:24). "He that
believeth on the Son hath
everlasting life: and he that
believeth not the Son shall not
see life; but the wrath of God
abideth on him" (John 3:36).

This policy provides an eter-
nal inheritance. "To an in-
heritance incorruptible, and
undefiled, and that fadeth not
away" (I Pet. 1:4). "He that
believeth on me hath
everlasting life" (John 6:47).

This policy is irrevocable
and non-forfeitable. This means
that God won't revoke it and
man can't forfeit it. It is non-
cancellable from the standpoint
of God and man. "For I am
persuaded that neither death,
nor life, nor angels, nor prin-
cipalities, nor powers, nor
things present, nor things to
come, nor height, nor depth,
nor any other creature, shall
be able to separate us from
the love of God, which is in
Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom.
8:38, 39). "You who are kept
through the power of God
through faith unto salvation"
(I Pet. 1:5). "Being confident
of this very thing, that he
which hath begun a good
work in you will finish it until
the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil.
1:6). "And I will make an
everlasting covenant with
them, that I will not turn away
from them, to do them good;
but I will put my fear in their
hearts, that they shall not
depart from me" (Jer. 32:40).
"And I give unto them eternal
life; and they shall never
perish, neither shall any
pluck them out of my hand.
My Father, which gave them
me, is greater than all: and no
man is able to pluck them out
of my Father's hand" (John
10:28, 29).

Years ago, at Leicester,
England, there was a strike.
Property was demolished and
homes were ruined in the riot.
In one home a lad was playing
on the first floor, while his big
brother was mending shoes
upstairs. Fearing the rioters
would break the door down, he
stepped to the ladder and called
"Tom, Tom they are going to
smash the door open; make
haste and come down." The big
brother, a strong, well-built man,
put his burley back to the door,
while the younger boy went on
about his play. Sometimes the
Devil comes to this house of
mine, and when I fear, lest he
take me by force, I rush to the
foot of the ascension ladder and
cry: "Christ, Christ, make haste
and come down: the Devil is
about to get me." Like lightning
He places Himself at the door of
my heart, and there are not
enough Devils in all Hell to
break the door open, when my
"elder Brother" has his back to
the door.

"How firm a foundation, ye
saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His

excellent word:

What more can He say than to
you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to
Jesus have fled?

The soul that on Jesus hath
leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to
his foes;
That soul, tho' all Hell should
endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never
forsake!"

The premium is paid for Time
and Eternity. That which keeps
men from carrying insurance in
this life is the premium, which
must be paid when due. When
Jesus said, "It is finished"
(John 19:30), the premium on
the policy was paid forever.
What is the premium?
"Forasmuch as ye know that
ye were not redeemed with
corruptible things, as silver
and gold, from your vain con-
versation received by tradi-
tion from your fathers; but
with the precious blood of
Christ, as of a Lamb without
blemish and without spot" (I
Pet. 1:18, 19). "Who his own
self bare our sins in his own
body on the tree, that we, be-
ing dead to sins, should live
unto righteousness: by whose
stripes ye were healed" (I Pet.
2:24). "For Christ also hath
once suffered for our sins, the
just for the unjust, that he
might bring us to God, being
put to death in the flesh, but
quickened by the Spirit" (I
Pet. 3:18).

III

It is interesting to notice the
terms and conditions of this
policy. Such a remarkable pol-
icy is offered you as a gift.
"For the wages of sin is death;
but the gift of God is eternal
life through Jesus Christ our
Lord" (Rom. 6:23). "For God
so loved the world that he
gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in
Him should not perish, but
have everlasting life" (John
3:16).

George F. Pentecost, in spite
of the advice of his friends deter-
mined to climb Pike's Peak
alone. He was getting along very
well when suddenly a
snowstorm overtook him.
Without warning the blinding
snow covered him and he began
to drift. He had about given
himself up to die when he fell to
the ground, and his hand fell
upon some dry twigs. It came to
him that if he could make a fire,
he might escape. He felt in his
pocket for matches and found
only one. The wind was blowing
a terrific gale. He took the
match and shielding it in his
hand from the snow, he started
to strike it, then put it back into
his pocket. Finally in his
desperation, he got up closer
under some rocks and struck the
match. Shielding the little flame
the best he could he touched it to
the dry twigs. The fire was
started and his life was saved.
There was just one thing be-
tween him and death—that one
match. There can be just one
thing between you and the judg-
ment and that is the precious
blood of Jesus Christ which you
must receive as a gift from God.

Furthermore, it must be ac-
cepted only as a gift. There is
nothing that I can do to merit it.
"For by grace are ye saved
through faith; and that not of
yourselves it is the gift of
God: Not of works, lest any
man should boast" (Eph. 2:8,
9). "Not by works of
righteousness which we have
done, but according to his
mercy he saved us" (Titus
3:5). "But to him that worketh

not, but believeth on him that
justifieth the ungodly, his
faith is counted for
righteousness" (Rom. 4:5).

It must be received by faith,
"But as many as received him
to them gave he power to
become the sons of God, even
to them that believe on his
name" (John 1:12). "And
brought them out, and said,
Sirs, what must I do to be sav-
ed? And they said believe on
the Lord Jesus Christ, and
thou shalt be saved, and thy
house" (Acts 16:30-31).

Will you now make applica-
tion for one of these policies?
You must apply to the presi-
dent. "For there is one God,
and one mediator between
God and men, the man Christ
Jesus" (I Tim. 2:5).

Suffer this further word.
Make your application im-
mediately. "Behold, now is the
accepted time; behold, now is
the day of salvation" (II Cor.
6:2).

"A dear one in Heaven thy
heart yearns to see—
At the beautiful gate may be
watching for thee,
Then list to the note of this
solemn refrain—
Ye must be born again."
May God bless you!

EDITOR'S NOTE: This sermon, along with twelve
other choice sermons are available in book form under
the title of "Sail On" by the late John R. Gilpin. \$6.95
per copy. Order through our Book Store.

BRIEF NOTE

Grace Baptist Church of
Stanleyville, N.C. has a mission
in Courtland, Va. The mission
meets in the home of Frank Par-
rish. To reach this home,
travelling west from Courtland,
take the first road after crossing
the river to the right. The road is
numbered 651. The Parrish
home is the second house on the
left on this road, and is from a
half mile to a mile after turning
on this road. Courtland is
located on U.S. 58. Anyone in-
terested in this mission work can
contact Frank Parrish, Rt. 1,
Box 384, Courtland, Va. 23837
or telephone 804/653-2616.

Any preacher who might be
interested in working in this
mission can contact the pastor of
Grace Baptist Church: Joseph
M. Wilson, Rt. 3, 1450 Old
Hollow Rd., Winston-Salem,
N.C. 27105. Telephone: Home
919/767-6911; Church
919/377-2154. We would be
much interested in some sound
preacher working with these fine
people. Any readers of TBE in
this area are urged to contact
Brother Parrish and attend ser-
vices at this mission.

FAITH

(Continued from Page 1)

It is to be noted carefully that
Thomas would not be satisfied
with just seeing his risen Savior.
He insisted that it was necessary
that two things happen before
he would believe. These two
things were that he must see and
touch. He insisted that he "see
in His hands the print of the
nails" and that he be allowed to
put his finger into those nail
prints. Thomas, then, contend-
ed that his senses of sight and
touch would be the only shovels
that would be able to remove the
clouds of doubt from his heart
and mind.

Thomas, of course, was in
gross error, because there is no
way to recognize the Lord Jesus
by the physical senses. We, in
fact, have several Bible ex-
amples where the physical body
could not identify the Lord
(Continued on Page 3 Column 1)

FAITH

(Continued from Page 2)

Jesus' spiritual body. Mary, you may remember, did not recognize the Lord when she saw Him after His resurrection. The record is as follows:

"And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus" (John 20:14).

We have, in John 21:4, another example:

"But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus."

We are not to excuse Thomas for not being at church on that momentous occasion in the history of our world, but we are to recognize that God had a purpose in all that occurred. God's purpose, of course, involved you and me. He determined that a record be made of one who was not easily convinced. Thomas, as we say, was "a hard nut to crack." He was not a push over. He was, as we say, "from Missouri and had to be shown." The example of Thomas, then, should help the doubters of our own day (see John 20:31). The Jews are still buried beneath doubts relative to the Lord Jesus. One day, however, according to Zechariah 12:10 they will behold His pierced body and believe.

"After eight days again, His disciples were within, and Thomas with them, then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you" (John 20:26).

Thomas, by the fact that he wanted to see for himself, reminds us of the following words of Job:

"Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me" (Job 19:27).

The disciples of the Lord Jesus did not give up on Thomas because he was slow in mind and heart. They could have turned their backs on him and said, "There is no need for us to be concerned with him. Let us go our way and leave him alone. He is the loser, not us." The disciples did not follow this route. The route they took was that of tenderly seeking to help their brother. He had been "overtaken in a fault" and they would not rest until he was restored. They, of course, by their action, showed that they were following in the steps of their Master.

The Master also showed His love for His sheep (Thomas) by not leaving him in a state of doubt. He, therefore, would make a special appearance to Thomas so as to chase away the doubts which plagued him. The record shows that our Lord, on other occasions, acted in the same manner. He, in fact, made a special appearance to Mary in order to quiet her troubled heart. He had made a special appearance to those who were in the troubled sea. He also had made appearances to others. Bishop Ryle, when writing on this subject, said:

"Let us take care that we drink into our Lord's spirit and copy His example. Let us never set down men in a low place, as graceless and godless, because their faith is feeble and their love is cold. Let us remember the case of Thomas, and be very pitiful and of tender mercy. Our Lord has many weak children in His family, many dull pupils in His school, many raw soldiers in

Faith never yet outstripped the bounty of the Lord.

His army, many lame sheep in His flock, yet He bears with them all, and casts none away. Happy is that Christian who has learned to deal likewise with his brethren. There are many in the family, who, like Thomas, are dull and slow, but for all that, like Thomas, are real and true believers."

Our Lord's words to His church, after He entered through the locked door, were "Peace be unto you." This expression by our Lord is only one of the warm rays that shine upon us from Calvary. We, when we feel the warm rays from the sun in the sky, know that the sun is there. It was created thousands of years ago, but its rays are ever present with us. The Lord's death and resurrection also occurred a long time ago, but the warm rays of "Peace be unto you" are still shining upon us today. The warm rays of God's love, mercy, grace, hope, etc., are also upon us continually so that we need to give continual thanks.

"Then saith He to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side, and be not faithless but believing" (John 20:27).

Thomas had said, in essence, that seeing is believing. He thought that he needed sight and touch as a basis for his believing. He considered that he needed these as props for his faith. Faith, however, doesn't need props. It doesn't need to see and touch. Faith, in fact, involves believing before seeing. Thomas, therefore, had the wagon in front of the horse. There is an interesting passage found in Psalm 27:13 which drives the nail that I am trying to drive. The passage states:

"I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living."

This passage points out that believing is seeing rather than seeing is believing. Faith, in fact, according to Romans 10:17, comes by hearing rather than by seeing or touching. Hebrews 11:1 also informs us that faith is the "evidence of things not seen." True faith, then, is simple trust in all that God declares in His Word. We believe it whether we understand it fully or not. We, in fact, are faced with numerous obstacles which the physical eye cannot see beyond. We, however, through faith can see beyond them all. The poet said it best when stating:

"There's so much now I cannot see,
My eyesight's far too dim;
But come what may, I'll simply trust
And leave it all to Him."

Thomas fainted because he did not believe to see, and we too will faint when we do not believe to see, yea, to see the promises of God come true - to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

"And Thomas answered and said unto Him, My Lord and my God" (John 20:28).

Thomas had fainted. He had grown cold and indifferent. He wasn't too sure of anything. Suddenly, however, his life was turned around. His cup, which had been empty, now runs over with joy. He only said five words ("My Lord and my God"), but these words were all that was needed. They said it all. They made it very obvious that the doubter had been transformed into a worshipper. Thomas saw the Lord and did not need to touch the nail prints or place his



The Baptist Examiner

BIBLE STUDY LESSON

By WILLARD PYLE

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Colossians 1:27-2:1

Intro.: "The saints," which include both Jew and Gentile, are to be properly cared for and

hand in His side. The Lord, in fact, said, "Because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed." The case of Thomas is a beautiful example of the fact: that where sin abounds grace doth much more abound.

"Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed" (John 20:29).

More honor is bestowed upon God by those who take Him at His word than by one, like Thomas, who required evidence.

We are constantly accepting the witness of men without evidence. On what basis, then, should we ever question the witness of God? They tell me that Abraham Lincoln was a past president of the United States. I never saw Mr. Lincoln so I must base my belief on the witness of men. God, on the other hand, has informed us that His Son died for our sins and rose again from the dead for our justification. Can I believe God? I, of course, do believe Him. It is as stated in the following passage:

"If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which He hath testified of His Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made Him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of His Son" (I John 5:9, 10).

"And many other things truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book" (John 20:30).

The fact that various signs are not written in this book of John does not mean that they are not written in other accounts of the gospel. One of the signs, for example, is found in Luke 24:15 where our Lord appeared to the two disciples while they were on the road to Emmaus.

"But these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God; and that believing ye might have life through His name" (John 20:31).

We see, then, that the signs were not given as historical facts, but they were given that we might believe and live. They were given that we might recognize Jesus as the Son of God. The "signs" were not given that we might believe something about Christ, but that we might believe in Him as our personal Savior and Lord, yea, that we might say with Thomas, "My Lord and my God."

Prisoners of Satan never look up until, they get flat on their back.

"God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34). Sin will ever make a "Ph.D." smell and act like a Skunk.

God has made preparation for this care by providing proper instructions and instructors.

VERSE 27

"To whom." That is, the saints which have been redeemed, reconciled, and regenerated. Those chosen and called unto salvation through the gospel; "the purchased possession" which have been "sealed unto the day of redemption;" the "beloved of God" which He loves "with an everlasting love" and from which there is no separation. Therefore, God "would make known," or He has willed to make known. So He raised up men, like John on the Isle of Patmos, and inspired them to write to the seven churches (Rev. 1:11), and also, sent chosen and prepared men to carry this message (Acts 9:15; John 1:6). Moreover, "He gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:11, 12).

"What is the riches." As we view, and many times, what we become a part of, the mad rush for earthly possessions and wealth, we need to remember, "a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15). May we ever keep in mind, "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich" (II Cor. 8:9). Therefore, "I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich)". So we have the true riches which is all included in the unspeakable gift of God and this because of "the riches of His grace" (Eph. 1:7). He "is rich in mercy" and He is shown, has shown, and will yet show what is the exceeding riches of His grace (Eph. 2:7). How we need to preach among the Gentiles as well as the Jews, "the unsearchable riches of Christ" (Eph. 3:8).

"Of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles." To see both the Gentiles as well as the Jews sharing the "glory of God" through Jesus Christ is indeed a mystery unveiled, but a mystery prophesied in the Old Testament.

"Which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." God has "shined in our hearts," both Jew and Gentile, "to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (II Cor. 4:6). As the tabernacle was in the midst of Israel and the Shekinah glory, so is He in and among His elect in the Person of His Son, Jesus Christ. We are partakers of His glory now, and this is the hope of glory in the future. We need to be "looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). Paul was looking for that time (Philip. 3:20), as was John (I John 3:2).

VERSE 28

"Whom we preach." The sum and substance of our preaching is the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ. May we ever study to preach Him as He is revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

"Warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom." Proper admonition, a call to repentance and faith (Acts 20:21), and proper exhortation, "teaching them to observe all things which I have commanded" (Matt. 28:2), is the work of the man of God. He is to be both an evangelist and a teacher (II Tim. 4:5; Eph. 4:11). This admonition and exhortation is to be to every man, whether Jew or Gentile, and it is to be concerning "all wisdom" or in regards to a full and public declaration of the Alphabet of God, the Word of God, Jesus Christ.

"That we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." There is only one way to be accepted and acceptable in the sight of God and this is in Christ Jesus; because of this, the ministers are to fully preach Christ. Study Col. 1:21, 22 again. Also, study II Cor. 11:2.

VERSE 29

"Whereunto I also labour." To make proper preparations, the man of God must exercise himself in spiritual matters (I Tim. 4:12-16; II Tim. 2:15).

"Striving." Putting to practice the things learned by moving into the area of service and suffering.

"According to His working." Our efforts are determined on His working in us both to will and to do of His pleasure (Philip. 2:13).

"Which worketh in me mightily." Paul had been moved by the Spirit of God until the love of Christ constrained him to become active in carrying the gospel to others. He had to preach!

CHAPTER 2, VERSE 1

"For I would that ye knew." Paul did not want the saints to be in ignorance concerning the things of God. Generally, he used the expression, "I would not have you to be ignorant."

"What great conflict I have." Paul, even though absent, had agonized in prayer and in preparing this letter under inspiration of the Spirit.

"For you, and for them at Laodicea and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh." Paul had a love for all saints, (1:4), and prayed for all saints (Eph. 6:18). He realized they had similar needs and that they had a common enemy whose tactics were similar in all places.

Conclusion: As I ponder these verses, I realize a need for revival among the ministers of God. May He move us as He did Nehemiah (Neh. 1:1-11).

(EDITORS 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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PAGE THREE

If you are in God's line, God will bring things in line with you.

The Baptist Examiner Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

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

Should a true Christian smoke cigarettes? If so, why? If not, why not?

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This can be answered quickly and easily. No, a Christian should not smoke cigarettes, pipe, cigars or chew tobacco or snuff. This does not mean that saved people do not do these things. I have known some who do, and I believe that they were servants of the Lord. In this respect I believe, however, that they are disobedient.

First of all, it is a proven fact that tobacco is very harmful to the body. It is proven that it causes cancer and lung diseases. Tobacco pollutes the air and causes non-smokers severe breathing problems caused by smokers. It discolors the teeth, fingers and causes bad breath. It does absolutely nothing for the person. It serves no constructive use. We are not to use that which brings harm to the body. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (I Cor. 6:19, 20).

We are admonished to do all for the glory of God. "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him" (Col. 3:17). Dare anyone say that they can honestly smoke in the name of the Lord Jesus. Can you hold a cigarette up and give thanks for it? I think not.

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"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (I Cor. 10:31).

I am going to get into trouble with this answer, but here goes. I do not suppose that anyone would say a Christian should smoke, so I deal with the question as to if they should not smoke. I am not a rabid, or even a very strong opponent of Christians using tobacco. I do not approve of a preacher hitting tobacco in every sermon he preaches. I think that our leaders in America (whoever they be) are most hypocritical in banning tobacco commercials from TV and allowing those for beer, wine, and liquor. Anyone knows that these are far more dangerous to physical and spiritual health than tobacco. I have and do know many fine preachers and Christians who

use tobacco. Whether or not one uses tobacco is a very inadequate test as to whether or not that one is a good Christian. I do not think any less of a Christian because he uses tobacco. I do wish and prefer that no one use tobacco and I would advise those who do not to never begin, and those who do to quit.

No one should smoke cigarettes, not just Christians. 1. It is a foolish and wasteful habit. 2. It is a nasty, smelly habit. 3. It is harmful to one's health. 4. A Christian should consider the fact that in many places and with many people, it is harmful to his testimony and should apply I Corinthians 8:13 in this matter. 5. It certainly is in no way to or for the glory of God. So, my answer is that no human being should use tobacco.

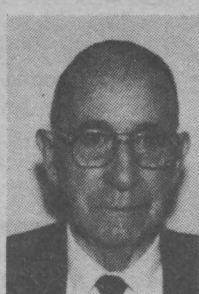
But I raise some further questions. If we preach against tobacco because it is harmful to one's testimony, what about many other things that also do this? Then I mention that too much salt, sugar, being overweight, lack of exercise, improper clothing for the conditions, loss of sleep, and many other things are harmful to the health. I suggest that sugar is far more harmful to health in America than tobacco. Then I mention that there are many habits that are foolish and wasteful. Then I suggest that there are many things we do that are not really for the glory of God. So, if we are going to start specifying things, are we going to be honest and consistent and where are we going to draw the line?

I suggest for consideration. If we will preach against those sins specifically mentioned in the Bible, and about which no one can argue, and get our people to quit them, we will accomplish a good bit. However, my answer still stands that no one should use tobacco.

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Basically, if a person is truly a Christian, the fruitage of their manner of life should clearly depict it. Surely, then, they should not act as if they know not what the apostle Paul said, in a startled manner, "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit Who is in you, Whom ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (I Cor. 6:19, 20).

Using our bodies, then, as such a temple, we should be energized by the Holy Spirit in such a manner as to cause us to live a joyous life of exuberance in the service of the Lord. This, of course, is a consequence of the fact that we are bought with the price of the efficacious blood

of Christ Jesus. Thus we are "saved" from our sins that we should "glorify God" in our body and in our spirit, which are God's. Yes, truly, we are bought with a price so that God will give us repentance to the acknowledgment of the truth, that we may recover ourselves out of the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him at his will (I Tim. 2:25, 26).

But now we are under new management, bound to, and accountable only to God, having no right over ourselves to will to do as we please, because, now, it is God Who worketh in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure without murmuring and disputing (Phil. 2:13-16).

So, since our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, we should cherish it by refraining from the things that might tend to defile it physically and spiritually. The apostle Paul was carefully concerned about this. Hence he said: "Wherefore, if meat (food) make my brother to offend (stumble), I will eat no more meat while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend (stumble)" (I Cor. 8:12).

Therefore, at this point, I am especially concerned about our body, as such a temple, that it should be kept as void as possible from contaminating influences, such as, the use of the tobacco in any form, since it has been proven to be injurious to the health and well-being of the body; then, in turn, it is injurious to our testimony and service for the Lord. Surely, then, without this hindering influence of cigarette smoking, we can serve the Lord with a better testimony and to a better advantage in a more healthy body, and, also, for a longer period of time. Realizing this, some church convenants require their membership to refrain from the use of intoxicant beverages. Why not cigarettes, etc.?

Yet many Christians respect the church building as a sanctuary (temple), as dedicated for worship services only, and will not smoke cigarettes in it, which is well and good; but, in respect to their individual physical bodies, which, as to the Christian, are designated, individually, as the temple of the Holy Spirit, they seem to have little or no respect, in treating it as a "smoke-temple." Such ascending smoke, surely, is not a "sweet smelling savour" to the Lord, as, on occasion, in conjunction with the tabernacle in the wilderness, when a burnt sacrifice ascended before the Lord, as a pleasing testimony.

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This subject on the use of tobacco has been around for a long time. I can remember, as a boy, the "Holy Rollers" in my neighborhood condemned any

users of tobacco to hell. In later years, many of our Baptist folk have taken up the battle declaring the practice to be evil and sinful. What is so surprising about all this is, although there is nothing in the Bible said concerning the subject, yet such an issue is made of it. The answer to the question, like many other habits most of us have (drinking coffee, tea, or soft drinks, excessive eating, etc.) depends upon the effect it has upon our health. The medical profession has listed excessive smoking as a health hazard. They have also listed many foods and drinks, even our chlorinated drinking water, as health hazards. In fact, it is said that in the United States, our eating habits cause more health problems than any other single cause.

It was said of Charles Spurgeon, the great renowned Baptist preacher, that he was a user of tobacco as well as an excessive eater. He died while in his forties, not from the effects of smoking, but his food habits.

As the Bible is silent on the subject, it would be impossible for me to give a Scriptural answer to the question. In Romans 14:14 we are told, "I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean." Also, in Romans 14:22, "Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that which he alloweth." Also, in Romans 14:5: "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."

These verses tell us that in matters in which the Bible does not condemn, the individual Christian is to decide the matter for him/her self. Verses three and four of Romans 14 also tell us not to judge the other person who does not do the same as we do. We, who do not smoke (I laid aside my pipe about three years ago), should not condemn those who do. Neither should those who do smoke, condemn us who do not. "Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth."

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I do not think a true Christian should smoke cigarettes, and for that matter, neither should any other person. At this writing, and being shut up to the Bible as the infallible rule of right and wrong, I am not convinced that cigarette smoking is immoral. However, I am convinced the smoking habit is dangerous to physical health, and the sooner a person quits smoking the better his or her health will be. Medical science says, "Within the first twelve hours after a person stops smoking, there is a rapid decline in the carbon monoxide level in the blood." Cigarette smoking is estimated to be related to about one-fourth of all cancer deaths in the U.S.

Cigarette smoking raises the blood pressure 10 to 20 points, and drives up the level of fatty acids in the blood which may cause the deposit of artery clogging plaques, thereby making the susceptibility to heart attacks greater. On the other hand, we would not call a person immoral who bite his fingernails, and eats high cholesterol foods contrary to his doctor's orders.

Many religiously-minded people associate cigarette smoking with low morals or loose living, and the Christian who smokes suffers a disadvantage in his efforts to witness for Christ. It is also true that some honest Christians are offended at the person who smokes in their presence, and with all the physical dangers connected with cigarette smoking, I am inclined to believe that their being offended is justified. Paul said, "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak" (Ro. 14:21).

I know some great Christians who smoke, and who in spite of their smoking habit, have been used mightily of the Lord. These Christians, everyone to a person are unhappy with their smoking habit, and prayerfully desire to overcome it. Having never smoked, I cannot know the trauma they experience in their efforts to quit smoking, but I can join my prayer to theirs, and compassionately encourage them in their efforts to lay aside the habit. The Christian should keep his or her body in as good health as possible, so as to withstand the rigors of life, and so as to give more effective time to spiritual labors. Only harmful results emanate from cigarette smoking, but much of the physical damage caused by smoking, if not all, can be reversed by immediate and permanent victory over the smoking habit. May God in His mercy grant the smoking Christian and others this victory!

ANSWERING

(Continued from Page 1)

Remember forever, however — and you will, I might add — that Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world..."! Thus, in serving the Convention instead of Christ Jesus, you are serving Satan! As long as you are serving Satan, you cannot serve our Sovereign God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

God informs us rather plainly, "No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other..." Hence, no man can serve the Convention and Christ! God explains, "Ye cannot serve God and Mammon." This truth, needless to say, forever condemns all suprachurch, all parachurch, and all denominational organizations which are set up to supersede, control, or rule — regardless of the name — as schemes of men designed by Satan!

The Convention Hierarchy assures us that Southern Baptists, as a people, despise the Scriptures! That is why their leading Seminary President can say that God would have given us the Scriptures on "golden plates" if He had wanted them to be infallible, and no word of

(Continued on Page 5 Column 1)

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God demands a whole heart but He accepts a broken one.

ANSWERING

(Continued from Page 4)

protest is raised. That is why one of the foremost Southern Baptist theologians and professors can say it is "blasphemy" to call the Scriptures infallible, and no word of protest is raised. Understandably, then, the Convention Hierarchy assures us that Southern Baptists despise even the idea that the churches should be answerable only to the Lord Jesus.

Peoples are shackled!
Churches are enslaved!

Understandably, then, it is not surprising that a supposedly conservative pastor, this past week, declared in two services, on radio and television, and in print, "And God's way of salvation was in a kingdom," and not a word of protest was heard. If we have any insight, we can know this is Roman ideology — not Scriptural doctrine.

"Salvation is of the Jews!"

Jesus alone is the Saviour!

"The gospel of Christ... is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Gentile."

We learn, "Moreover brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."

Perhaps it should not be surprising that one who would say, "And God's way of salvation was in a kingdom" would go on to say, "He is the world's Christ," and that "Jesus is universal." This one apparently has never heard Jesus say, "I pray not for the world" and "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." Certainly, one who truly believes that "Salvation is of the Jews" would never be guilty of putting out the welcome mat for the Antichrist as this one has done. Surely, this one has never believed, "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the first born among many brethren. Moreover, whom he did predestinate, them he also called, and whom he called, them he also justified; and whom he justified, them he also glorified."

Though this one is a Southern Baptist Seminary graduate with a Th.D., he seemingly is not aware that "The whole world lieth in wickedness" (the Wicked One), and that Satan is "the god of this world." Perhaps it may be said of him, "The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God should shine unto them."

This is most appalling!

Yet there is much more!

In even more desperate depravities, Southern Baptists have turned to mimic the mariolatry of the Romans. They do this, in part, of course, as they look to "The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering" and as they look with almost equal vigor to "The Annie Armstrong Easter

Offering." They do this in a paganism which has been "cut," as it were, from Romanish clerical and theological "cloth"! Impossible though it may seem to be, the "Brotherhood Commission," the "Foreign Mission Board," the "Home Mission Board," the "Sunday School Board," and the "Woman's Missionary Union" tell us that "The Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon funds are the right and left legs on which Southern Baptists' mission program walks the earth..."

Do you doubt, then, that it is a "Monster"? They, themselves, give us these words concerning the "Cooperative Program" and "Lottie Moon" fund "legs"!

In an even more desperate paganism, Southern Baptists make an even more tragic move in their service to Satan. In the December 1980 MISSIONS DIGEST which is the official publication of the "Brotherhood Commission," "Foreign Mission Board," "Home Mission Board," "Sunday School Board," and "Woman's Missionary Union," we are informed that "the talented, brilliant Mission Lottie" was "The very personification of the Savior."

Do you hear the word?

Are you listening now?

The "Brotherhood Commission," the "Foreign Mission Board," the "Home Mission Board," the "Sunday school Board," and the "Woman's Missionary Union" would have us to suppose in THE NEW LOTTIE MOON STORY that "the talented, brilliant Mission Lottie" was "The very personification of the Savior." Needless to say, the "Mary" of the Romans is not the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ. Yet, it is true that the Romans have called their "Mary" the "Mother of God," and their "Mediatrice" and, in their "Hail Mary's," they call upon her to intercede with Jesus for them. Nevertheless, in my cursory reading of romanism and listening on occasion to Romans across some 45 years, I have never noted them speaking of their "Mary" as "The very personification of the Savior."

Tragically, however, this is not the conclusion of the efforts of the officials of these parachurch Southern Baptist institutions. They go on to tell us, "The name Lottie Moon is associated with many things — missions, China, cookies, and of course Christmas."

Lottie Moon Xmas Cookies?

Shades of Hot Cross Buns!

Do you suppose that the "Brotherhood Commission," "Foreign Mission Board," "Home Mission Board," "Sunday School Board," and "Woman's Missionary Union" have a little more "Method in their madness"? Or a little more "Madness in their method," perhaps? Do you suppose they are getting ready to supply Southern Baptists with "Lottie Moon Xmas Cookies" for year-around use? Maybe, even, "Lottie Moon Xmas Cookies" as "wafers" for use in the already unscriptural — substituting "grape juice" and other unfermented "solutions" for Scriptural fermented wine — Southern Baptists' "Lord's Supper"?

Quite a business for WMU!

The anti-feminist members of the Woman's Missionary Union doubtless will be especially happy to don their aprons — maybe even their "Eastern Star Aprons" — for such "a good Convention Cause"! Let us see, thirteen million "Lottie Moon

Cookies" or "wafers"! That is a lot of work! It would be better than 90,000 gross or over 1,000,000 dozen! At a reasonable price of just \$1.00 a dozen — though I am certain that good Southern Baptists would be happy to pay \$2.50, since it is all for a "good cause" and since it will come out of "Cooperative Program Funds" at the local level anyway — that will be quite a "take" for the WMU each time Southern Baptists "serve" what they call "The Lord's Supper."

WMU'ers will reach a "great glory"!

They'll do something Mary couldn't!

With such a "lucrative business" in prospect, it is most probable that the "Brotherhood Commission," "Foreign Mission Board," "Home Mission Board," "Sunday School Board," and "Woman's Missionary Union" who have dropped this subtle word about "cookies" will both see the value of and insist on the rationale of having the Lord's Supper at least once a week, and maybe even two, three, or four times a week, especially in those "Great Churches" that have several supposed "worship services" so as not to interfere with the games the people feel compelled to play or to watch, or the entertainment and trips in which they feel the need to indulge. It may be that with "Lottie Moon Cookies" to complement the "Lottie Moon Christmas Offering," Southern Baptists will be able to get away from that "Lottie Moon" once-a-year-Christmas thing! Then, they will have "Lottie Moon" and her "Cookies" for their "devotions" and especially in their "Lord's Suppers" on a much more frequent and satisfying basis.

Shades of Mariolatry!

And it's at hand now!

Though it still may be difficult for some Scripturally and historically-informed brethren to believe or to accept, the brainwashing of Southern Baptists may very well be complete. More than 25 years ago, two of the more famed and most esteemed professors at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary were promoting the Roman "Church Year"! Both, today, are deceased, but their Romanizing efforts live on among their proteges.

In this very hour, one of their proteges who is deemed to be one of Southern Baptists' most esteemed leaders travels the length and breadth of our nation to conduct his ecumenical seminars. These are designed with an emphasis on the Roman "Church Year" so that Baptists and indecisive Protestants might be more fully influenced by Rome. This one of whom we speak is a graduate of Baylor University, one of Southern Baptists' supposed scholastic bulwarks, with a BA degree. Too, he has a Bachelor of Divinity and a Doctor of Theology from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Further, he has an honorary DD from Georgetown University in Kentucky and an LLD from Baylor.

It is obvious, however, that he knows little or nothing about the word of God. He is respected, esteemed, and promoted among Southern Baptists, but it is evident that he cares nothing about the beliefs of Baptists! Though he allegedly "pastors" a Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi, which once was thought to be conservative, he apparently spends considerable "spare time" spreading himself about

A HIDING PLACE

These lines were written by Major John Andre, British Adjutant, a few days before he was executed as a spy during the Revolutionary War, 1789.

Hail! Sovereign Love, which first began
That scheme to rescue fallen man;
Hail! matchless, free, eternal grace,
Which gave my soul a HIDING PLACE.

Against the God Who built the sky
I FOUGHT with hands uplifted high;
Despised the mention of His grace,
Too PROUD to seek a HIDING PLACE.

But thus the eternal counsels ran—
"Almighty Love, arrest that man."
I felt the arrows of distress,
And found I had no HIDING PLACE.

Indignant, Justice stood in view,
To Sinia's fiery mount I flew;
But Justice cried with frowning face,
This Mountain is no HIDING PLACE.

On JESUS GOD'S just vengeance fell,
Which would have sunk a world to Hell;
He bore it for His elect race
And thus became their HIDING PLACE.

Should sevenfold storms of thunder roll,
And shake this globe from pole to pole,
No thunder-bolts shall daunt my face,
For Jesus is my HIDING PLACE.

A few more setting suns at most
Shall land me on fair Canaan's coast,
Where I shall sing the song of Grace,
And see my Glorious HIDING PLACE.

—Major John Andre

Submitted by J. C. Settlemoir
Jamstown, Indiana

the country promoting "The Church Year" of the Romans.

It is probable that some who read this may have seen his "advertising" in rather prominent positions in some of their local papers. Such notices will usually contain, "Dr. Claypool, pastor of the Northminister Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss., was to discuss 'Pastoral Preaching during Lent'!" Among Southern Baptists, no less! What a tragedy! How appalling! Have the darknesses of satanic and Roman depravity which already envelope Protestantism completely enveloped these brainwashed, bamboozled, and baffled people called Southern Baptists?

Along with such notices, one usually finds some other rather interesting "tidbits" of information which are part of his promotional scheme or a part of his promotional materials designed to influence the ministers who will participate in his "ecumenical seminars." Needless to say, such promotional material is prepared so that the local media can further elaborate on his "fame"! In most instances, the gullible religious folk are given other details which will include, "Dr. Claypool has served on a number of denominational and community boards including chairman and member of The Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, member of the Board of Directors of Lena Pope Home, member of The Human Welfare Commission of The Texas Baptist Convention, and a member of The Board of Trustees of Texas Christian University."

Can you imagine a "Baptist" as "Trustee" of a Church of Christ University? Surely those Southern Baptists who endured the battle during the rise of the Campbellites in another generation are turning over in their graves! How "ecumenical" can one get? Can it be that Southern Baptist leaders are preparing

the Southern Baptist people to accept "Baptismal Regeneration" by taking them to Rome through The Church of Christ? Or by way of the Campbellites?

Needless to say, only a "peculiar person" would be able to find anything negative to say about such a "fine," "upstanding," "ecumenical" Southern Baptist who "is recognized as one of the 10 outstanding ministers in the nation and is equally well-known as a lecturer and teacher." Nevertheless, I would hope that every informed Baptist who has any knowledge of the Scripture or any comprehension whatever of Baptist history — if there are any such at this late hour — should be able to realize that all who are involved with such a man or who promote such a man are Roman in orientation, in organization, and in objectives.

Any minimally-informed person should be able to comprehend that any Southern Baptist leader who gives himself to the promotion of "Pastoral Preaching during Lent," as this famed one does, is wholly Roman in attitude, interest, and effort. Interestingly, "Dr. Claypool" is the product of Baylor University and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and approved by the Georgetown University where the famed conservative, Dr. H. Leo Eddleman — who is now the "Scholastic" and "Intellectual" Voice of The Criswell Bible Institute — was once President.

It would seem that Southern Baptists are literally "storming the doors" of The Papal See in Rome in their evident desire to become Roman. Southern Baptists may appear to be presenting their religious efforts on several fronts. In actuality, it is

(Continued on Page 6 Column 1)



QUESTION:—From what city did Paul escape in a basket?
ANSWER:—Damascus, Second Corinthians 11:32-33. —“In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me: And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.”

ANSWERING

(Continued from Page 5)

quite evident that on all fronts they are marching as one — 13,000,000 abreast, if you please, with some 36,000 pastors leading the way — as they move toward Rome. Impossible though it may seem to be, tragically, Southern Baptists appear to be stumbling over one another in their haste to see who can outdo the other in their efforts to do obeisance before the Pope of Rome.

If Southern Baptists can just find some rationale for “candles” and “beads,” they will really have it made paganistically. This will be especially true if they can get their college and seminary psychology departments and the multitudes of their pastors and professionals who are trained in Freudian, Rogerian, Skinnerian, ad infinitum, “counseling” to arrange for “Confessionals” instead of their “couches”! Then, they will be able to join that Southern Baptist Pastor in his “salvation was in a Kingdom,” Jesus “is the world’s Christ,” and “Jesus is universal.”

Together, they can begin putting out the welcome mat for the Antichrist. In the meantime, of course, they can continue to dance, prance, and cavort about their “golden” and “sacred cow,” the “Cooperative Program,” which has become the center of their supposed worship and the source of most of their spiritual decline into unscriptural depravity.

Is it possible that these piteous creatures are not aware that “Christmas” is Roman paganism? Is it possible that these supposedly learned authorities among Southern Baptists are unaware that the linking of Lottie Moon or any other name with “Christmas” is to link it with paganism? Tragically, once a people begin their piteous slide into unspiritual and unscriptural oblivion there is no way to counter the tobogganing effect. Their depravity becomes an ever-increasing way of life!

We note further in the “MISSIONS DIGEST that it is an official publication called “Sermon Helps” and that it is designed to be “The pastor’s monthly resource for missions education.” The paganism, then, would seem to be by design. The homage to Lottie Moon certainly is with specific design! Obviously, an effort is

being made to brainwash Southern Baptist Pastors so they, in turn, can brainwash their people to commit themselves to the Convention — not to Christ Jesus.

Don, can you doubt now that the Southern Baptist Convention Officials are conspiring to brainwash you and your fellow pastors and subsequently your people? Can you doubt that it is the determination of these Southern Baptist authorities to make certain that you and your people put Satan’s “Yea, hath God said?” before the Scriptures? Can you doubt that you are being enslaved and shackled to conform to and to do “the doctrines and commandments of men”?

Your plight is piteous!

Your subjugation is sad!

Just a short while ago, you and your deluded people — brainwashed very carefully, perhaps — joined some 36,000 other Southern Baptist Pastors and their peoples in the supposed “celebration of Christmas.” Both of us know that “Christmas” is Roman paganism, and that there is no way that Christ Jesus who died on the Cross of Calvary can ever be “put into Christmas” or be “put back into Christmas.” Even the thought is blasphemy and ultimate religious criminality!

Certainly, sane men would never attempt to make Him who died on Calvary’s Tree for the lost who will believe remembering that He did not die for those who will go to hell in unbelief — to be a participant in paganism, a pagan holiday, or some pagan celebration called “Christmas” or “Christ-mass”! All, then, who would participate in the supposed “celebration of Christmas” in the name of the Lord Jesus are really “mad men” at heart!

If we can receive it, God makes it rather clear that any who would indulge, “Let us do evil that good may come,” are subject to damnation, and that such “damnation is just.” This is God’s conclusion, as you may note!

Is there hope for you and yours?

That is not mine to say, really!

Whether you are a witting or unwitting servant of Satan is something that you will need to determine, nevertheless. If you are a lost pastor, as most ministers in America and most ministers in the rest of the earth, then, even now, the wrath of God abides on you! God makes it clear, “He that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

If you are a saved pastor and you give yourself to the paganism of “Christmas” and to the unadulterated blasphemy of “The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering,” judgment doubtless is ahead. If, in obeisance before the Convention authorities, you insist on lying to your people, then I would suppose you need to understand, “Look to yourselves that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.” If you can, remember, too, that when you have lied to your people, you have “lied to God,” also. In this connection, there is “a sin unto death” and “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

What more can we say?

If “Ephraim is joined to idols,” God says, “let him alone.” Hopefully, you are not an “Ephraimite!” Doubtless,

what we see in your “church” and in the “churches” of your 36,000 fellow pastors, as well as among most of the “Fundamental Baptists,” “Fellowship Baptists,” “Association Baptist,” “Missionary Baptists,” and most so-called “Independent Baptists” is explained by Jeremiah. We read, “A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so...”

If you are lost, you will have “a hardened heart” as Pharaoh. If you are saved, you will be humble, as Moses. If you are lost, you may be as Judas Iscariot and plead a guiltiness from which there is no respite. If you are saved, you will be as Peter and “go out and weep bitterly” in effectual repentance. As the former, you will be a lost Cain crying, “My punishment is greater than I can bear.” As the saved, you can come to “Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body,” ever willing to “go forth...unto Him without the camp, bearing His reproach.”

Eternity is upon you and yours!

You have come to decision time!

Ever yours, to the praise of Christ,

Raymond A. Waugh, Sr.

ICHABOD

(Continued from Page 1)

threats became serious they would not or could not take the needed measures to protect themselves. It can’t happen here. Sound familiar, America?

It seems for any nation to have achieved such a measure of majesty, such stature and glory, surely our Lord must have sovereignly smiled upon her. Possibly for a season her leaders and a goodly segment of her people did pay homage to our Lord, giving Him the praise, honor and glory for their exalted position among all the nations. That is only conjecture but if it should be so, it follows naturally: “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.” However, it is sad to state that for whatever reason, Rome first drifted, and then, plunged headlong into a morass of moral declension and a most terrible spiritual apostasy. This is a fact of history, borne out by trustworthy testimony of both the religious and secular writers. So now, instead of a position of former glory and blessedness, Imperial Rome is reduced to a shambles, a pitiful, beaten caricature of her former self. If perhaps ancient Rome once had enjoyed the approval of our Lord, she has forgotten “from whence her help cometh” and has forfeited the power and rights and privileges of her former position and now is subject to, and deserving of, divine wrath. And so, once more the word left to us for our example and edification has been substantiated and thoroughly vindicated: “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and the nations that forget God.”

Beloved, do you find the comparison between ancient Rome and modern America to be a farfetched fantasy, and can you lightly disregard or ignore the obvious parallel path of two former super-powers? I Corinthians 10:12 applies to in-

dividuals within its context, but nations are made up of individuals, so without doing hurt to the word we can apply it to those powers which fail to give our sovereign Lord the glory due Him: “Wherefore let him (or that nation) that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he also fall.” Therefore, little children, it behooves us as individuals to give all diligence to live sincerely holy lives lest we contribute to the detriment of our spiritual welfare, bring shame to our Lord’s church and assist, in a measure, in destroying our own nation.

Now, as pertaining to why I feel that our Lord may possibly have withdrawn His omnipotent hand of mercy from America, and why I consider the improbability of any sweeping, far reaching resurgence of repentance, individual or national.

Personally, and apart from a gleaning here and there, I can detect no real and concrete evidence as a basis for any renaissance of true religion. Furthermore and by far the more trustworthy, I can find no basis in the Scriptures for promulgating the teaching of a world wide revival in our age. I hold that the next in-gathering of note will only occur after that our precious Saviour has revealed His riven side and pierced hands to the elect remnant of Israel. I confess that my God is absolutely sovereign and is not beholden to me and to my ideas of the end time. I know, too, that as He is sovereign, He will deal with America as He wills. If He so cared to destroy Rome and then to withhold His wrath from our nation, He can do so and none can question why. And yet, withal I can find no comfort nor hope in all my Bible for that nation or that individual who continues and persists in that which is evil. If the Holy Spirit will allow you, turn on that television in your living room for one night and you will see sights that I feel would have made that citizen of Rome to blush. People who will not patronize the theatre will grieve that Holy One of God with something in their homes. Beloved, the burning question is: Will a thrice holy God allow an incredible Roman nation to destroy itself, and all the while smile like a benign grandfather while we continue, full speed ahead, in our national and individual sins? I trow not.

What remaineth, then, for that sincere child of God? Little, except that last prayer in your Bible: “Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

ELECTION

(Continued from Page 1)

7:6 we read: “...The Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto Himself above all people that are upon the face of the earth.” Many would say why is it so? The answer is found in Deuteronomy 7:8: “...Because the Lord loved you.”

The election is not limited to the Jews only, but all the children of God are divinely chosen, and as always, without anything good foreseen in them. The proof of this is seen in I Corinthians 1:26,27: “...For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; And God hath chosen the weak things of the world to con-

found the things which are mighty.”

Many say that God sees who will believe and who will come to Christ and therefore, has chosen them to be His elect. However, this is not true for that would make salvation to depend upon our will, and the Bible says in Romans 9:16: “...So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.” How then is salvation obtained? The Bible says in Romans 11:7: “...The election hath obtained it.”

To be sure, God had seen everything about us when He chose us. He saw our unbelief, our rejection of Christ, our multitude of sins, and that without divine intervention we would be faggots in Hell, hating and rejecting Christ until the day we die. He also saw all about us after we were saved, our coldness of heart, our slowness to serve Him, our ingratitude of His salvation, and our many backslidings. I say, He chose us by His Grace alone. I remember that dear man of God, Jago Washer, preaching the year before God took him home. He had preached the everlasting Gospel for over 45 years. Mid-way through the message he stopped and said, “Brethren, you know I’ll never understand why God chose me. That’s one thing about election I don’t think I’ll ever understand.” I often think about that and the longer I live as a child of God, the more convinced I am that I’ll never understand why God has chosen me. Let others have their idea, that God’s election is based upon some good choice in themselves, but we’ll have our unconditional election as it’s presented in the Word of God.

What a blessed thought to know that our election took place a long time ago! Ephesians 1:4: “According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world...” To think that God thought about us before creation, that He knew all about us, and that He loved us and chose us to salvation, is grand indeed. We read in II Thessalonians: “...God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation...” Think of it! even from the beginning, and the Bible says, “In the beginning God...” When there was nothing created at all, when there was nothing but God, God chose us even then.

God not only chose us but gave us grace (unmerited favour), made us His favorites, objects of distinguishing grace. For we read in II Timothy 1:9: “...Grace which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.”

I say if you are saved you ought to rejoice in this doctrine, you ought to want to know more about it, and above all, you ought to get down on your knees and thank God for His unconditional election.

If you are lost, surely there is no hope for you aside from this election. Your will won’t bring you to Christ and you need to be saved from your decisions; you haven’t any good works, so isn’t this a good doctrine for you?

Election makes us objects of an everlasting love. The kind of love God revealed to Jeremiah, as seen in Jeremiah 31:3: “...Yea I have loved thee with an everlasting love: Therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee.” That is the reason we were drawn by The Holy Spirit to Jesus Christ. Loved as
 (Continued on Page 7, Column 5)

"WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE RELIGIOUS WORLD TODAY"

LETHBRIDGE, Alberta (EP)—Jehovah's Witnesses around the world are watching the fortunes of a small group of Lethbridge members who have split with the church over doctrine.

Former witness Bob Alexander estimates about 10 percent of the 500 Witnesses in the southern Alberta city have dropped out of the church. And members of the splinter group say a worldwide fellowship seems to be forming among people who want a reformed Jehovah's church. Witnesses from across North America, Scandinavia, Australia and Puerto Rico have been calling about the group.

The group meets in the houses of former members for a couple of hours every week, but swelling numbers has it looking for a hall. Mr. Alexander said his disaffection with the Witnesses started with doubts about church rules. Once popular Bible study groups are now discouraged. Bible study is allowed only on an individual basis, and only if the Watchtower magazine, a Jehovah's Witness publication, is used as a guide.

"If you don't toe the Watchtower line, then...you've been handed over to Satan," Alexander said. "Many of us are aware of the... high degree of stress on loyalty to doctrine, the organization itself and even to the elders on the local level. Authoritarianism is rampant. They're becoming obsessed with it."

Larry Marlowe, Lethbridge overseer for the church, refused to comment on the dissident group, saying it is an internal matter.

Alexander's wife Rae said members who have broken with the church have found spit on their cars and eggs smashed on houses. Her friends from school days have been warned not to talk to her and she has been treated as though she was disfellowed — the equivalent of excommunication — although no action has been taken.

ATLANTA (EP) — Rumors that Avon Products and Procter & Gamble are controlled by Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church are not true, according to representatives of the Southern Baptist Home Mission board and spokesman for both companies.

Glenn Igleheart, director of the interfaith witness department at the Home Mission Board, called the rumors "unfortunate" and said: "We have an obligation to tell the truth and to set the record straight on these rumors."

"We've attempted to tell people when Moon has connections with certain businesses, but we must be careful not to cast falsehoods about innocent, legitimate businesses."

The Avon "Moonie" tale surfaced most recently in Alabama and Georgia. It appears to be passed "word of mouth," said Betty Abrams, manager of Avon's consumer information center. "The rumors circulating about Moon's ownership of Avon are completely untrue," Abrams said. Moon is in no way involved with Avon. We do not have any listing of Moon or his

church as shareholders of our corporation.

TUPELO, Miss. (EP)—The National Federation for Decency says that Lorimar Productions has told the organization that CBS plans to take "The Waltons" off the air at the end of this season and asked the NFD's help in keeping it on. The NFD says it will make an all-out effort to help.

Donald E. Wildmon, executive director of the NFD, said that his organization will work as hard to keep the program on as it has in opposing sex, violence and profanity in the past. "Kim Reed, Unit Publicist for 'The Walton's' has asked us to help and we intend to do all we can," Mr. Wildmon said. "We have opposed the content of several of Lorimar's programs in the past and will continue to do so," Wildmon stated, "but we will go to bat for them on this one." The group said that it will also include in their efforts a drive to keep "Wonderful World of Disney" on NBC. The network announced earlier this year that it would cancel Disney at the end of the season.

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (EP)—Some 55 leaders of the Catholic charismatic renewal responded enthusiastically to a call to preach the uniqueness of Jesus and the necessity of living a moral life which was given during the semi-annual meeting of the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and its Advisory Committee. Ralph Martin of Ann Arbor, Mich. gave talks three mornings at the Jan. 9-12 meeting here.

The 1981 National Conference on the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church will have as its theme, "Jesus Crucified — The Power of God," based on I Cor. 2:1-5. The conference will be sponsored by the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the United States and will take place May 29-31 at the University of Notre Dame.

Elsewhere, Pope John Paul II recently met with several groups of Catholic charismatics. The Pope said: "Your movement is very important because it proclaims that the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity illuminates the whole Christian life...Our Christian vocation comes from the multiplication of the charisms, leading to the formation of one body and a society of unity and love."

HAIFA, Israel (EP)—A Baptist congregation in Haifa, Israel's principal port city on the Mediterranean, is coming alive after seven years of death, says Baptist leader Ibrahim Sim'an. Mr. Sim'an and his family began having Friday evening worship services in their homes at the foot of Mount Carmel a few months ago. Now other families are attending and they hope the congregation, which disbanded in 1973 due to disharmony among Arab and Jewish leaders, will be revitalized.

Sim'an, who was ordained as a minister in 1979 and who serves as chaplain in hospitals and to refugees from the civil

war in Lebanon, also reports that an inter-community Bible study has begun in the city. He leads the Protestant and Catholic laymen and clergymen from various churches in the study and subsequent discussions of the Christian faith.

SCHROON, LAKE, N.Y. (EP)—On January 5, 400 students of the Word Of Life Bible Institute gave in cash and pledges more than \$39,000 to spread the Gospel in needy places in the world, with special emphasis on 15 Third World countries.

One of the regular ministries at the Bible Institute is an outreach in Times Square, New York and, The Loop, in Chicago. The students voted to use \$4,200 toward reaching runaway teens in these two areas. Word of Life is working with youth in 21 countries on all six continents of the world. In 5 of these countries Bible Institutes have already been established, and in 19 of them, youth camps are in operation.

SEOUL, Korea (EP)—Amid an early, heavy snowfall, 18 Korean Baptist pastors witnessed to about 9,000 South Korean soldiers along the eastern section of the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea. When the pastors were through, more than one-quarter of the 1,595 decision cards indicated professions of faith in Christ. This effort was the ninth annual Christmas Season Evangelistic Campaign conducted and funded by the military evangelism department of the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Korea.

TOPEKA, Ks. (EP)—The Kansas Senate will use public money to pay the monthly salary of Mr. Fred Hollomon, who will deliver a prayer each day in the chamber, Senate President Ross Doyen said.

Recently a federal judge ruled that Nebraska should be prohibited from paying its legislative minister with public money. Mr. Doyen sought an opinion from Robert Coldsnow, a legislative counsel who approved the monthly payments of \$322.

Mr. Hollomon began serving his third year as the Senate chaplain when it convened January 12. According to procedural rules, a prayer is given after the chamber is brought to order and roll call is taken.

LOS ANGELES (EP)—"Our Bold Response...Now!" will be the theme for the 1981 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 9-11 in the Los Angeles Convention Center. Bailey E. Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., and president of the 13.6 million-member denomination, will preside over the 124th annual session of the 136-year-old denomination. President Ronald Reagan has been invited to address the convention.

AKRON, Pa. (EP)—Reviewing the work of 1980 and looking ahead to the challenges of 1981 will be the task of Mennonite Central Committee members as they gather for the 1981 annual meeting in Edmonton, Alta., January 29 to 31. Members, who represent MCC constituent groups, will plan for 1981 in light of an encouraging personnel and financial report for 1980. Personnel applications and placements were at a record high in 1980, resulting in 809 workers presently in service, compared to 722 at the end of 1979. Contributions also increased to an all-time high of \$7.2 million, 22 percent higher than in 1979 and six percent above the estimated budget.

BUDAPEST, Hungary (EP)—Evangelist BILLY GRAHAM received a warm welcome from government and religious leaders alike during a three-day visit to Hungary to receive an honorary Doctor of Theology Degree. The degree was conferred by the Reformed Theological Academy of Debrecen. Dating from 1538, it is reputedly the oldest Protestant seminary in the world. Mr. Graham was the tenth American so honored by the school.

Imre Miklos, Secretary of State for Church Affairs, and Presiding Bishop Tibor Bartha of the 2.5 million constituent Reformed Church in Hungary

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co-hosted the Evangelist's visit. Both said publicly they had been favorably impressed by Mr. Graham's preaching mission to Hungary in 1977. The pair also said they like the evangelist's new emphasis on world peace and arms reduction.

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (EP)—PTL TV Network President, MR. JAMES BAKER, along with PTL's Orchestra and Singers, participated in the only public worship service sponsored by the President Inaugural Committee as part of the official Inauguration ceremonies when Ronald Reagan became 40th President of the United States.

The ecumenical service was held in the newly restored sanctuary of the National City Christian Church on January 18. It included representatives from Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, Jewish and Islamic communities. DR. RICHARD HALVERSON, Chaplain-elect of the United States Senate, was the principal speaker.

ELECTION

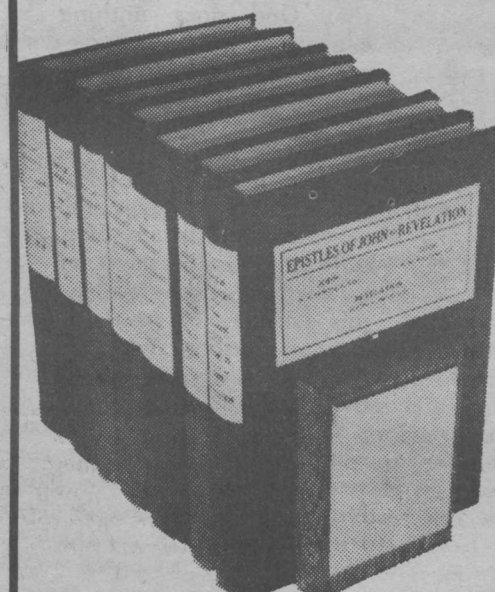
(Continued from Page 6)

individuals and drawn as individuals and The Lord Jesus said: "...No man can come to me except the Father which hath sent me draw him" (John 6:44).

The election gives us a predestinated future, for we read in Ephesians 1:5: "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will." The purpose is to exalt the Grace of God, for we read in Ephesians 1:6: "To the praise of the glory of His grace."

(Continued on Page 8 Column 3)

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ELECTION

(Continued from Page 6)

Think of it! our salvation will forever more serve to glorify the Grace of God. The Grace of God can only be seen in the salvation of sinners. The Angels in glory can see the Holiness of God, the majesty of God, the power of God, the creation by God, but when they want to see the grace of God they have to look at the redeemed. I shouldn't be surprised if God puts us in glass cages in glory and marches the universe past to behold the trophies of Divine Grace, but even if He doesn't, we'll be for ever monuments of His grace. Unconditional election gives us such a future. Let it be added that we shall be the only lights in Heaven through which the matchless grace of God will shine.

The very foundation of Salvation by Grace is unconditional election, for we read in Romans 11:5, 6: "Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of Grace. And if by grace, then is it no more of works: Otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more Grace: Otherwise work is no more work." Those that reject unconditional election must likewise surrender salvation by grace, for there is no other alternative offered by these two verses of Scripture. It is certainly the most twisted logic that would proclaim salvation by grace and then destroy the very foundation of it. Besides, what kind of motives would put asunder what God has joined together? Some say election is too strong a doctrine for them; if that be so, then so is salvation by the grace of God.

It is through the understanding of unconditional election that we can view that wonderful text in Titus 3:5: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us." I am afraid that those who wish to teach another salvation will just have to find another bible, because such teaching is outside the bounds of Scripture.

Unconditional election means that God saved us on purpose. To take any other position means that God saved us by accident or by chance. We know that God does nothing by chance, for everything is done according to the Divine Will.

Unconditional election means that God never fails but always succeeds. To take any other position makes God a failure. It would put God trying, and God never tries to do anything. He does things but he never tries to do anything. So, as you can see, this doctrine of unconditional election glorifies God.

II. Election as seen among the Gentiles.

Often when we find God's work prospering through conversions and a Church being built up, the minister is given the credit. Some say, "O, if we had him here our Church would do well, our area would benefit." However, this is not so, because there is an election of grace in an area, the Lord sends one of His servants to engather His elect, through preaching by the power of The Holy Spirit. Behind a revived Church there is the election of

grace and that is the reason for it. This is a fact clearly seen in the book of Acts.

1. At Antioch In Pisidia.

"And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the Word of the Lord: And as many as were ordained to eternal life believed" (Acts 13:48).

You will notice that those who were God's elect believed. The only reason given for their believing is because they were ordained to eternal life. Some foolishly think that John 3:16 contradicts election, but as you can see there is no contradiction, because only those ordained to eternal life will believe.

2. In Europe.

"Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of The Holy Ghost to preach the Word in Asia" (Acts 16:6).

"And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the Gospel unto them" (Acts 16:9, 10).

We can see from the above Scripture that Asia was to be bypassed, and the Gospel was to go to Europe. The heathen in Europe were no better than the heathen in Asia. Without the Gospel people cannot be saved and must endure the wrath of a Holy God. The only purpose of God is to be seen in election. There was an elect people in Europe. The Lord sent his servants, with the glorious Gospel, for the purpose of engathering His chosen vessels of mercy.

Many churches were formed in Europe, great light was given the people, even reaching to this day, while Asia was left to perish in darkness.

3. At Corinth.

"Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and noman shall set on thee to hurt thee: For I have much people in this city" (Acts 18:9, 10).

The Lord tells Paul He has much people in the city, a people yet unsaved, but belonging to The Lord through the election of grace.

Paul had just left Athens, a city known for its culture and learning; There did not appear to be many elect there, but in Corinth, a city known for its immorality, there was much people. Do you not marvel at the grace of God, by passing the intellectual and artistic city and choosing many in the immoral city?

As we trace the footsteps of the apostle to the Gentiles, through the book of Acts, we see that God has an elect in the most unlikely of places. Isn't that true of today? We often find strong churches in out of the way places.

4. At Nineveh.

"Arise, go to Nineveh, that

great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me" (Jonah 1:2). "And should not I spare Nineveh" (Jonah 4:11).

There were many Gentile cities as wicked as Nineveh, yet no where in the Old Testament do we read of a prophet being sent to any other Gentile city and the inhabitants of that city granted repentance. If any can give a reason for God's mercy to Nineveh, we can show that the same reason would apply to thousands of Gentile cities throughout history, and yet, they were without mercy. Surely, the only reason is God's unconditional election of grace.

5. The Gentiles As Well As The Jews Are Said To Be Vessels Of Mercy.

"That he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles" (Romans 9:23, 24).

The Gentiles are partakers of the election of grace, the same as the Jews are. This revelation shows us that God's dealings with man are the same in the New Testament and in the Old Testament. God has only ever had one way of bestowing mercy upon men and that way is unconditional election. God has chosen untold numbers to receive mercy.

A vessel of mercy is a vessel of mercy, whether Jew or Gentile found in the Old Testament or New Testament. All vessels of mercy are what they are because of one thing—even electing grace. God's mercy is according to God's choice for it is written: "I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy." Think of it! Vessels that are distinguished only because of God's mercy.

6. The Gentile Elect Are To Be Engathered Before Christ Comes.

"Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name" (Acts 15:14).

The context shows that during this age God is saving His elect Gentiles. He is going to take a people from among the Gentiles. Those whom He has loved and chosen before the foundation of the world. We thank God for His mercy for none deserve to be saved, and were it not for the election of grace, none would be saved.

Do you not see how that election is taught throughout the Scriptures. Wherever men talk of grace and mercy they must also talk of unconditional election.

(To Be Continued Next Week)

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