

THE PREVAILING EFFICACY OF THE ATONEMENT OF THE WORTHY ONE

"And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation: And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth" (Rev. 5:9, 10).

In our church, we are presently engaged in a brief series on the Book of Revelation. In the morning services, I am going through the Book with a series

of eleven studies with some notes I have prepared. Usually this involves covering two chapters each morning. In the evening services and Wednesday services, I seek to bring a message from some part of the two chapters covered that Sunday morning. We had the two chapters: 4 & 5, and I sought for an evening sermon therefrom. I planned to speak from chapter 5 on "The Worthy One." As I worked on this sermon, I came to see that the true subject of this chapter was as I have given in the subject of this article. Oh,



Joe Wilson

what a blessed thing it was as this subject came to me and opened up to me!

Revelation chapter five is in two parts: The taking of the book by the Worthy One who has prevailed in His atonement; and the praise given to this One. This book may be regarded as the title deed to the earth. It records the processes by which the Worthy One will claim His possession. The first gospel promise in Genesis 3:15 tells us how One miraculously as 'seed of woman' will defeat the devil and regain all, and more than all,

that was lost by the fall for the elect people of God. The Book in Revelation Chapter 5 tells of His doing this.

Leviticus 25: 47-49 tells how one who has lost his inheritance may have it restored by a kinsman-redeemer. We lost our inheritance through the fall. Jesus is our Blessed Kinsman Redeemer who restores our inheritance. This book in Revelation 5 reveals the foreordained process by which He does this. Ruth 4:1-10 tells how Boaz was a kinsman-redeemer for the lost

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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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GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE IN THE FURNACE

By Ron Boswell
Smithsburg, MD.

"...I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction" (Isa. 48:10).

Many years ago, when I was a new Christian not long converted, I read a sermon preached from this text. Though at the time I didn't have many afflictions, I nevertheless felt the power and blessing of this text. I loved this verse and hoped that someday I might be able to preach from it to the honoring of God and edifying of His poor and afflicted people.

I. God's people are in a furnace of affliction.

Even a casual reading of the Scriptures show us that God's people have many troubles. Consider the life of Job; he loses his health, his wealth, his family. Satan was given permission to take everything he had, the question is why he did not take Job's wife? The answer must be that the tempter needed an instrument to work through. As we read the book of Job, we find that the fiery darts of the devil are hurled at Job through his wife and friends.

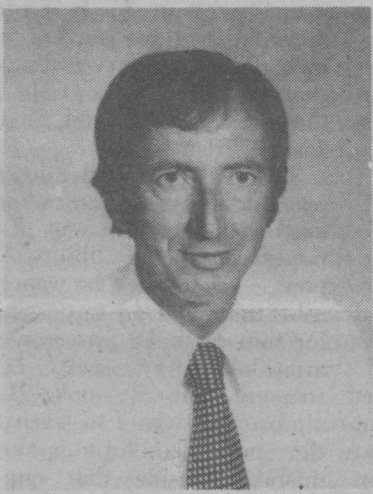
Consider Elijah, Joseph, Jeremiah and David. We see their lives marked by affliction. Elijah asking God to take his life, Joseph sold as a slave, Jeremiah imprisoned and David hunted as a wild animal by his own countrymen.

Consider the Apostle Paul; imprisoned, beaten, shipwrecked, forsaken, a thorn in the flesh and not even having enough warm clothing to keep him warm in the winter.

It doesn't matter which child of God we study in the Bible, we find affliction.

The hymn writer styled us as a "child of weakness and of woe." If you are a saved person, you have your problems; maybe physical, maybe financial, maybe in the family, maybe loss of loved ones, maybe you are misunderstood—we could go on and on. The Bible says, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all" (Psalm 34:19).

Paul and Barnabas after preaching at Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, went back to the



RON BOSWELL

Saints that were there to tell them they would have afflictions. Listen: "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation

enter into the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22).

(Continued on Page 5 Column 4)

FUNNY OF WEEK "OUR BONER"

We regret that in our October issue, in the text of the President's Message, we committed a terrible typo, and it was ours — not his. He wrote the perfectly sane statement (whether you agree with it or not): "The only West Christian who is not a Protestant is a Papist." It came out as the perfectly insane statement: "The only Western Christian who is not a Protestant is a Baptist." We don't know what happened to us, but we apologize to our readers, to Dr. Simcox, to all Baptists and all Papists.

—From THE CHRISTIAN CHALLENGE

EDITOR'S NOTE: I believe the perfectly insane statement was correct the first time.



MEDFORD CAUDILL

Everywhere he went he reasoned out of the Scriptures that Jesus was indeed the Christ, the anointed one, the Messiah of God. This preaching of Paul's did not go unnoticed. Some heard it and believed unto salvation. Some heard it and pronounced it blasphemy. Some simply did not care about it one way or another.

Seven sons of Sceva, a priest,

were acquainted enough with the ministry of Paul to attempt to imitate it. They seek in this passage to cast out a demon in the name of, "Jesus whom Paul preacheth." It is evident that they did not have a saving faith in Christ. I know of none who would contend that these seven individuals were in reality saved men. While it is evident that they did not have a saving knowledge of Christ, it is also evident that they did have an acquaintance with the Christian religion. Enough of an acquaintance, in fact, to attempt to imitate the work of the Apostle Paul.

A mere acquaintance with religion does not save. One may have the most intimate knowledge of the workings of a New Testament Church and not be saved. One may do all of the things that good Christians do and not be saved. One may even be a minister of the gospel and not be saved. A mere acquaintance with religion does not save.

The evil spirit that occupied this person was certainly not a saved being. Yet, this demon knew of both Jesus and Paul.

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SEVEN DIVINE FREEDOMS

At his White House desk, President Eisenhower signed a Declaration of Freedom drawn up by the fundamentalist National Association of Evangelicals and based on "seven divine freedoms" found in the 23rd Psalm. The seven:

Freedom from Want: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

Freedom from Hunger: "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures."

Freedom from Thirst: "He leadeth me beside the still waters."

Freedom from Sin: "He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake."

Freedom from Fear: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me: thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Freedom from Enemies: "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies."

Freedom to Live Abundantly: "Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

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The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon By John R. Gilpin

THE OLD WHORE AND HER HARLOT DAUGHTERS

(Read Rev. 17 and 18)

The Devil has two favorite methods of carrying on his work: the first is by opposition, as was true in the Garden of Eden; the second is by imitation, as was true in the Parable of the Tares found in Matthew 13. Whenever the Devil can't destroy by opposition, he always attempts to destroy by imitation. Mark it down, beloved, if the Devil can't destroy by opposition, he will then ape or imitate or counterfeit the very thing that he wants to destroy.

The Devil tried to destroy the church that Jesus built. There isn't a doubt in my mind but that he thought he was going to destroy it. He had our Lord put to death, and then later, he destroyed the disciples. Simon Peter was arrested after James had been beheaded. One by one those early apostles suffered and had hardships and heartaches and martyrdom as a result of the opposition of the Devil.

Like the hydra-headed monster though, of the Marshes

of Lerna that we read of in mythology, of whom it was said that everytime a gladiator would cut off one head, another would grow in its place, so it was with the churches of our Lord. Everytime that one was destroyed, another would spring up, so that the Devil soon found that he was getting no where fast by opposing and by destroying the church that our Lord Jesus Christ had built. So, beloved, when the Devil found that he wasn't accomplishing his purpose in destroying the church, he changed his tactics and then decided he would build a church imitation to the church that our Lord Jesus had built — namely, Roman Catholicism. I am confident that Roman Catholicism is the Devil's counterfeit church, and I will prove it to you as we read further in these chapters of the book of Revelation.

The Bible tells us about the church which the Devil built. Listen:

"Another parable spake he unto them: The kingdom of

heaven is like unto LEAVEN, which a WOMAN took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened" (Mt. 13:33).

The leaven is false doctrine, the meal is the Gospel teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the woman is apostate Christianity headed up in Roman Catholicism. From the time that Roman Catholicism came into existence, Rome has been doing the same thing that this verse said the woman did. Rome has been subtly and secretly and silently hiding the leaven of false doctrine in the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

May I remind you, beloved, that the whole religious world is leavened with Catholicism. If you don't believe it, pick up your evening paper and read all about the Easter program of the various churches, which is nothing short of Catholicism. It came from the Catholics entirely, and every church that has any kind of an Easter program,

(Continued on Page 2 Column 1)

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DAUGHTERS

(Continued from Page 1)

is to that extent leavened by
Catholicism. There is some kind
of Catholicism in practically
every church today which tells
us just how far Rome has gone
in the matter of leavening and
corrupting the true teachings of
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Maybe it would be well before
I come to the Scripture itself, to
remind you that there are three
classes of churches in the world
— Baptist churches, which are
God-made; Romanist churches,
which are Devil-made; and Pro-
testant churches, which grew
out of the Protestant reforma-
tion against Catholicism, and
thus are man-made. I haven't a
thing in this world against a
single individual Catholic or an
individual Protestant. I have
some mighty good friends who
are Romanists and I have some
mighty good friends who are
Protestants, and I would go out
of my way to be of help to any
man — Protestant, Catholic, or
heathen. While I love those who
are Protestants or Catholics, I
have absolutely no use for a Pro-
testant Church nor any Catholic
Church, but my love is for the
kind of church that Jesus started
2000 years ago — namely, Mis-
sionary Baptist.

Ere somebody might
misunderstand, may I say that I
am not discussing any man's
salvation, nor any man's rela-
tion to the Lord Jesus Christ. I
am discussing churches. Any
man who has believed on Jesus
Christ as his Saviour is saved
and is going to Heaven when he
dies, for there is nothing for him
to go to Hell for since Jesus has
already suffered his Hell at
Calvary. Regardless of what
church he is a member of, or
whether or not he is a member of
any church, regardless of
whether he has been baptized or
perhaps he has not been baptiz-
ed at all, any man who has seen
the truth that Jesus Christ has
died for all his sins — past, pre-
sent, and future — is saved and
is going to Heaven when he dies.
While I am ready to grant
that every man who has trusted

Jesus Christ is saved, I am not
ready to grant that everything
that calls itself a church is a true
church of the Lord Jesus Christ.
I just want to tell you why it is I
am a Baptist and not a Catholic,
and I will say that if I were not a
Baptist I'd be a Catholic. No
half-way measure for me, for
that is all that Protestantism is,
a compromise between truth
and error — Baptists on the one
hand and Catholics on the other.
All the truth that Pro-
testants hold comes from Bap-



John R. Gilpin

tists, and all the heresy that they
have, comes from Catholics.

**I
A PURE WOMAN IN THE
BIBLE IS SYMBOLIC OF A
PURE CHURCH.**

In II Corinthians 11:2, Paul
in writing to the church at Cor-
inth, says that he wants to pre-
sent that church as a chaste
virgin to Jesus Christ. Listen:

"For I am jealous over you
with godly jealousy: for I
have espoused you to one hus-
band, that I may present you
as a **CHASTE VIRGIN** to
Christ" (II Cor. 11:2).

Likewise, beloved, an impure
woman would be symbolic of an
impure church. When we read
about this old whore — this im-
pure woman — we will read
about one who symbolized some
kind of an impure church.

I think that we have a key as
to whom this woman is. Listen:
"And the woman which
thou sawest is that great city,
which reigneth over the kings
of the earth" (Rev. 17:18).

There wasn't but one city in
John's day that reigned over the
kings of the earth and that was
Rome. Any student of history
knows this to be true. The
church within the city of Rome
is the Roman Catholic Church.
Therefore, I contend that this
woman is nothing more nor less,
than a symbol of the impure,
heterodoxical, heretical church
of Rome that we choose to speak
of, and identify today as the
Roman Catholic Church.

**II
THE OLD WHORE HAS
SENT OUT HER
REPRESENTATIVES INTO
MANY NATIONS.**

"And there came one of the
seven angels which had the
seven vails, and talked with
me, saying unto me, Come
hither; I will show unto thee
the judgment of the great
whore that sitteth upon
MANY WATERS" (Rev. 17:1).

Rome has sent her am-
bassadors to every spot of the
earth so that her claim of being
an universal church is a true
claim. She has representatives in
all parts of the earth.

**III
FORNICATION.**
"With whom the kings of
the earth have **COMMITTED
FORNICATION**, and the in-
habitants of the earth have
been **MADE DRUNK** with the
wine of her fornication" (Rev.
17:2).

This means the union of
church and state, and certainly
Rome has been guilty of the
union of church and state. She

has done all within her power to
unite church and state in Mex-
ico and Spain and in South
America. Listen to missionaries
when they are home, and hear
them tell of the grip that Rome
has on the inhabitants of South
America.

This verse tells us that the in-
habitants had been made drunk
with the wine of her fornication,
meaning when there has been a
union of church and state, the
individuals of that country are
in the same condition spiritually
as a man who is drunk. This is
to say, they are confused and
don't know the truth. That is
certainly true wherever Roman
Catholicism has sway today.

**IV
THIS OLD WHORE HAS
AN ABLE CONFEDERATE
IN THE BEAST.**

"So he carried me away in
the spirit into the wilderness
and I saw a woman sit upon a
**SCARLET-COLORED
BEAST**, full of names of
blasphemy, having seven
heads and ten horns" (Rev.
17:3).

That beast refers to the Anti-
Christ. When the Anti-Christ
reigns, he is going to make some
kind of religion his state church.
I think it is only logical that he
will make Catholicism his state
church and that is what seem-
ingly is taking place today.
Catholicism is growing by leaps
and bounds while Protestantism
is dying faster than Catholicism
is growing. When the beast
takes over, he will be in a posi-
tion to make Catholicism his
state religion.

**V
THIS WOMAN — THE
OLD WHORE — IS DECK-
ED IN SCARLET.**

"And the woman was ar-
rayed in purple and
SCARLET COLOR" (Rev.
17:4).

Everybody knows that scarlet
is the royal color of Catholicism.
I remember the first time that
the pope ever broadcast on
radio, which took place in
February, 1931, that the daily
papers told how the pope sat on
a red damask throne, that all of
his attendants were dressed in
red, that he himself was dressed
in scarlet, and that when he
drove to the radio station to
deliver his broadcast, he arrived
in a red automobile. Scarlet is
the color of Catholicism. I think
that is one more identifying link
showing that this woman
represents the Roman Catholic
Church.

All of you who read LIFE
magazine, or at least, look at the
pictures, will recall that when
the new cardinals were made a
few years ago, the pictures were
carried in several issues of that
magazine, and you will
remember the scarlet colored
robes that those individuals
wore — pictures in full color.

I say then, the very fact that
this whore was arrayed in scarlet
is another proof in the links of
identification, showing us that
the woman represents the
Roman Catholic Church.

**VI
THE WEALTH OF ROME.**
"And the woman was ar-
rayed in purple and scarlet
color, and decked with **GOLD
AND PRECIOUS STONES
AND PEARLS**" (Rev. 17:4).

Rome is rich. Mark it down,
beloved, that Roman
Catholicism holds the balance of
financial power in this world,
either directly or indirectly. You
can talk about the Jews having
the wealth of the world. I don't
believe that all the Jews in the
world control the balance of
financial power like the Roman
Catholic Church.

Often do I think of that inci-
dent whereby two of the prelates

of Rome were observing the
great wealth hidden away in the
Vatican. It was said that one of
them remarked to the other,
"We have come a long way since
the time of our first pope when
Simon Peter said to the lame
man, 'Silver and gold have I
none.'" The other agreed with
him that they had come a long
way, for whereas Simon Peter
had no silver and gold, they had
plenty of gold and precious
stones. "However," said he,
"we've come a long way in
another direction too since we
don't have Peter's power to say,
'In the name of Jesus, rise up.'"

Beloved, Rome has the gold.
Rome has the precious stones.
Rome holds the balance of
financial power in this world.

**VII
THIS WOMAN HAS A CUP
OF ABOMINATIONS IN
HER HAND.**

"And the woman was ar-
rayed in purple and scarlet
color, and decked with gold
and precious stones and
pearls, having a **GOLDEN
CUP** in her hand **FULL OF
ABOMINATIONS** and
filthiness of her fornication"
(Rev. 17:4).

Let's take a look and see what
is inside that cup. You will find
that cup is filled with false doc-
trine. Take the supposed doc-
trine of the immaculate concep-
tion of Mary — that Mary was
formed without sin. It is a false
doctrine. Not one word of truth
in it. There never was but one
that was born without sin and
that is our Lord and Saviour
Jesus Christ.

There is also the false doctrine
promulgated less than one hun-
dred years ago by one of the
popes as to the infallibility of the
pope — that when he wears his
robe that it is an impossibility
for him to make an error or a
mistake whatsoever. It is
strange that it took Rome
almost 1900 years to learn that
the pope couldn't make a
mistake. Inside that cup of
abominations you will find the
false doctrine of infallibility of
the pope.

How can a man get rid of
demons, or get rid of the Devil
out of his life? The Catholics say
that if you will take the liver, or
the heart, or the entrails of a fish
and burn a little piece of it over
the coals of your fire that it will
drive the Devil completely
away. The Word of God tells us
that the only way a person can
get victory over the Devil is by
the blood of the Lord Jesus
Christ. You will find this false
doctrine of the Catholics inside
that cup of abominations.

Also, inside that cup of
abominations is image worship
whereby that men worship im-
ages.

At a hospital not far away is a
statue of our Lord Jesus Christ
with the toe practically worn off
where the faithful, coming in
and going out of that hospital,
kiss the toe of that statue.

Look inside that cup and you
will find the worship of Mary as
one of these abominations.
Beloved, no man nor no woman
can come between my soul and
God — none but Jesus Christ.
He is the only one that can act as
mediator between God and
man, yet the Catholics say that
Mary is to be worshipped, that
as we worship her she intercedes
for us with God. There isn't one
word in the Bible to support it.
It is a lie from beginning to end.
It is one of Rome's abomina-
tions.

Look again and you will see in
it the abomination of salvation
by works and salvation by bap-
tism. If it hadn't been for the
Roman Catholics these false
doctrines would never have been
heard of.

I tell you, beloved, inside that
cup this woman holds in her
hands are abominations, one on
top of the other — false doc-
trines which Rome holds today.

**VIII
THIS WOMAN IS NOT
ONLY A WOMAN OF ILL
REPUTE HERSELF, BUT
SHE IS THE MOTHER OF
HARLOT DAUGHTERS.**

"And upon her forehead
was a name written, **Mystery,
Babylon the great, the
MOTHER OF HARLOTS** and
abominations of the earth"
(Rev. 17:5).

This verse tells me that every
church that has sprung out of
Catholicism is a harlot daughter
of Rome. Some Baptists talk
about the Methodists, the
Campbellites, the
Episcopalians, the Lutherans,
and all the Protestants as our
"sister denominations." Belov-
ed, they are not sister denomina-
tions; they are the harlot
daughters of the old whore of
Rome herself. Though it makes
us unpopular with the world, we
might as well face facts as they
are laid down in God's Word —
the old whore and her harlot
daughters represent Roman
Catholicism and the false churches
that have come out of
Rome.

**IX
THIS WOMAN IS DRUNK
WITH BLOOD.**

"And I saw the woman
drunk with the blood of the
saints, and with the blood of
the martyrs of Jesus: and
when I saw her, I wondered
with great admiration" (Rev.
17:6).

J. M. Carroll, who developed
the lectures, "The Trail of
Blood," estimated that better
than fifty million Baptists died in
defense of the faith and shed
their blood as martyrs during
the Dark Ages rather than give
up their religion. Beloved,
Rome is drunk with the blood of
martyrs. The only reason that
Rome doesn't persecute Baptists
in America is because Rome
doesn't have the power to do so.
If they had the power they
would persecute Baptists here
just like they have always
persecuted them.

Let's notice some of the
methods of torture that they used.

One method was the thumb-
screw whereby they would put
the thumbscrew over a man's
thumb and tighten it until it got
tighter and tighter upon the
flesh in an effort to force that in-
dividual to give up his religious
faith. If he would refuse to re-
cant, then they would tighten
the thumbscrew until eventually
the flesh would burst and the
blood would gush from it.

Beloved, Rome is drunk with
the blood of martyrs.

Think of that iron-maid into
which many Baptists forefathers
were put to die. It was an iron
casket-like affair into which the
individual was placed. The door
itself had in its dozens and
dozens of sharp spikes, so that
when the individual was put in-
side it and the door was closed,
the individual's body was pierc-
ed through and through with the
sharp spikes. If I had the time to
tell you of Baptists who in early
centuries died by way of the
iron-maid because they didn't
observe Easter. I don't think
you would ever feel kindly
toward Easter again knowing its
origin, and knowing what some
Baptists have gone through try-
ing to stand against it in the
past.

Another method of torture
was the method whereby they
would draw and quarter an in-
dividual. Let me tell you of a
Baptist preacher who, in the

(Continued on Page 3 Column 1)

DAUGHTERS

(Continued from Page 2)

fourth century, was laid upon the ground, and a horse hooked to each of his arms and to each of his feet, and at a given signal those horses were started and that individual was drawn into four parts. Why? Because he believed that it was wrong to baptize babies. That wasn't an isolated case. Many Baptists have died in the same manner.

Let me tell you of those individuals who had their tongues pulled out with hot pinchers. I tell you, beloved, if Baptists had to suffer a little today like they did in the days gone by, when Rome was drunk with the blood of the martyrs, Baptists would be more true to the faith than what they are. There are some folk who say, "I will stand with you through thick and thin," but when the fight gets thick, I find that a lot of folk would thin out when the fight got thick, but those that stood would really stand for the faith.

Think again of those Baptists who had hot lead poured into their open boots. Think of those Baptists who had boiling oil poured into their ears. Can you imagine anything as horrible as for a pregnant woman to have her body ripped open and her offspring cast to the wild hogs while her husband was compelled to observe what was taking place? Beloved, this actually happened to the wife of a Baptist preacher who dared to stand against alien immersion.

Can you imagine what it would be like for a man to be taken out of his pulpit and have his body cut open and ears of corn stuffed inside his body, and then have hungry hogs that hadn't been fed for days turned loose to devour that man's entrails and to devour the corn that was placed within his body? I could tell you of Baptist preachers who were treated thus. Why? Just because they said there was no saving merit in the taking of the Lord's Supper.

Beloved, Rome is drunk with the blood of the martyrs. We need to remember that every time we see a Roman Catholic Church we see that which is symbolized by this old whore, that which tells us that our Baptist heritage today is one that has been bought dearly with the price of blood.

Go back to St. Bartholomew's Day in France when the pope and the Catholic queen of France enticed hundreds of people into the city of Paris on August 4, 1572. 70,000 were slaughtered in one day's time. When the pope heard about it he ordered a service of Thanksgiving in the church at Rome and ordered "Te Deums," the Catholic hymn of praise, to be sung in all the churches. Why? Because 70,000 individuals in the city of Paris had died at the hands of the old whore who was drunk with the blood of martyrs.

Can you imagine a road thirty miles in length with stakes set up along the highway about as close as telephone poles, and can you imagine the head of a Baptist on those stakes every so often on each side of the road? Beloved, history tells us that a group of Baptists were thus beheaded and their heads placed upon stakes along the highway for thirty miles. Surely they must have been guilty of some terrible offense to be treated thus. No, beloved, their crime was that they refused to bow their heads to the heresies of Catholicism.

I wonder how many Baptist preachers today would rather

Even our tears need washing in the blood of Christ before they can be acceptable.

have their heads cut off than to take part in an Easter service, or who would be willing to have their heads cut off rather than have their babies baptized. You know as well as I that there will be a lot of Baptists that will participate in this heathen holiday of Easter. There will be dozens of Baptist preachers who will go to Good Friday services, so-called. Beloved, we have come a long way from the time when Baptists refused to participate in such services, with the result that Rome — drunk with the blood of martyrs, beheaded them for their refusal.

Can you imagine being put into a leather sack that was filled with snakes and scorpions and lizards and dropped into the water? Beloved, that is what one Baptist preacher suffered just because he preached salvation by grace. Rome, beloved, is drunk with the blood of martyrs.

X
GOD HASN'T FORGOTTEN.

"For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath REMEMBERED HER INIQUITIES. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double" (Rev. 18:5, 6).

You may say it seems strange that things have gone on it the years as they have and God has allowed Rome to prosper. Listen, beloved, it is a long road that doesn't have a turning. It is a long road that has no end. Rome's day is coming. I am ready to grant that it doesn't look like Rome is being destroyed today, for Rome is surely riding on the crest of popularity by way of radio and newspapers and periodicals. By every conceivable means Rome is prospering today but some of these days God is going to turn the tables, for God says He is going to reward her double. Listen:

"And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall HATE the whore, and shall make her DESOLATE and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire" (Rev. 17:16).

The old Anti-Christ, who will use Rome as his state religion until he gets power during the tribulation period, will turn on Rome and will completely destroy and annihilate her. Reread that sixteenth verse and see how complete will be her destruction.

A few years ago during World War II, Rome was spared and she was called "The eternal city," but when God rights the wrongs of Rome, Rome is not going to be spared. God is going to use the beast and the world system of falsehood in order to destroy her who has destroyed the truth.

Listen to me, beloved, God isn't going to forget. When you and I and all the redeemed of the Lord have a ringside seat in the sky watching the carnage that will take place upon this earth, and see the destruction that will come upon a world that has forever left God out of consideration, we will see the destruction of Rome. It makes me rejoice to know what the future holds in store as far as Rome and these false churches are concerned.

CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that God is going to root up all these false churches, I want to make one appeal to the saved who are in these churches — the same appeal that our Lord made in writing this book of Revelation. Listen:



The Baptist Examiner

BIBLE STUDY LESSON

By WILLARD PYLE

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Psalm 22:16-22

Intro.: The Word of God lays line upon line in a multiplicity of expressions in describing the suffering of Christ on the cross in the stead of His elect people to redeem and reconcile them. It also sets forth the accomplishments of this death, as it describes the glory which was to follow. The repentant sinner and the believing saint need to ponder both, for this will produce praise, assurance, and faithfulness.

VERSE 16

"For dogs have compassed me." The depravity of man, which is sin-madness, surfaced at the cross, as man is pictured as a wild bunch of dogs foaming at the mouth in their desire to rid themselves of Christ.

"The assembly of the wicked have inclosed me." In contrast to a church, or an assembly of saints, we have here the assembly of the wicked; those of like faith and order like their father, the devil (John 8:44). They were children of those who killed the prophets (Matt. 23:31, 32). They had religion, but it was a Devil-inspired religion. Notice in Revelation 2:9, we have a synagogue of Satan referred to by Christ. Therefore wicked assemblies are not merely, or just composed of, immoral people, but of very outwardly religious people.

"They pierced My hands and My feet." They felt they had stopped the work or ministry of Christ by making His hands and feet immobile. However, thank God, Jesus continued His work of redemption, even in this condition and position, until He cried, "It is finished." God's work does not hinge merely on the physical. Paul relates to this when, as a

"Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Rev. 18:4).

There are some saved Catholics, but they are in the wrong church. They are not saved by what they have been taught, rather they are saved in spite of it. Some Protestants are saved. They aren't saved by what they have been taught. They are saved in spite of it.

You tell me, beloved, that a man is saved who believes in salvation by works or by salvation by water? It is an impossibility. The majority of Protestants are on the road to Hell because they believe in salvation by works or salvation by baptism. Beloved, in spite of what they have been taught, there are some Protestants and some Catholics who have seen the truth, and have come to trust Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.

Our Lord says to that saved man who is in a false church, "Come out before the day of destruction, before the hour Rome is completely annihilated and before the time that these harlot daughters are destroyed along with the old whore herself." This is my appeal to any man that is saved, regardless of where he is, to come out of the false churches

prisoner, he assured the people. "The Word of God is not bound" (II Tim. 2:9).

VERSE 17

"I may tell all My bones." The entire Person of Jesus suffered in our stead. The agony of being suspended with all of the weight of the body pulling the skin until the bones are clearly seen, as you would look on an X-ray, is beyond imagination. Added to this, if you tried to relieve the hands, the feet would receive all of the strain, and if you tried to relieve the feet, the hands would receive the load. Added to this, you have the nerves and blood vessels in the hands and feet severed, which would cause pain throughout the entire body. However, the greatest suffering was not the physical produced by man or the Devil, but the wrath of God executed on sin.

"They look and stare upon Me." The humiliation of being disrobed in the presence of wicked men, and to have them make sport, was felt by Christ. To see the opposite, we have in our day men and women who, in their depravity, unrobe themselves in order to excite the passion and attention of others. Sin knows no shame.

VERSE 18

"They part My garments among them, and cast lots upon My vesture." Keep in mind, fulfilled prophecy is a proof of inspiration, and every prophecy concerning the Person of Christ was fulfilled in relation to His death. Again, we see man's depravity manifested, as these wicked soldiers couldn't wait for Jesus to die before they took His garments. Much could be said concerning their gambling. The garments of Christ

and get into a New Testament church that loves the Lord Jesus Christ and preaches the Word of God.

Those of you who are members of this church who have stood so nobly for the truth, and who have stood for the Word of God in spite of all opposition, I urge you to get your breath a little deeper, and to square your shoulders a little more, and to roll your sleeves a littler higher, and to stand firm for the things of God a little longer. Some of these days we are going to be with Him and when that time comes, Rome is going to be destroyed.

May God help you to be faithful in these trying days until He comes!

WHY BE A BAPTIST?

By H. B. TAYLOR, SR.

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were soon gone, but in contrast to this, the believer receives the garments of salvation, which are forever (Isa. 61:10).

VERSE 19

"But be not Thou far from Me, O Lord." Neither the friendship nor the forsaking of the world should be our main concern. We should not count the friendship of the world, nor worry over the forsaking of the world. Jesus sets the right standard as He shows how we should desire, above all else, the fellowship of God.

"O My strength, haste Thee to help Me." As a man, He goes to the throne of grace to receive help in the time of need (Heb. 4:16). Jesus knew the affliction which He was undergoing was of the Father, but He knew also, it would soon end. May the saints understand this truth.

VERSE 20

"Deliver My soul from the sword." The sword of Divine justice had been drawn and had fallen on Christ as the Substitute for sinners and He longs for the sword to be replaced and His work completed.

"My darling from the power of the dog." Jesus' prayer for deliverance was based on a knowledge of the Word of God, and of the purpose of God, so He prayed, "Not My will but Thine be done."

VERSE 21

"Save Me from the lion's mouth." David knew what it meant to see a lamb crushed by the jaws of a lion; he also knew what it meant to be delivered from the lion's mouth.

"For Thou hast heard Me from the horns of the unicorns." Jesus, the One Who was born of a virgin, and born under the law; Who took upon Him the form of a servant, had yielded Himself into the hands of wicked men; He had stood before their "bar of justice" and had been condemned as an imposter; He had felt their cat of nine tails, and finally, is led as a lamb to the slaughter; now He is seen in the very jaws of death, but His faith failed not, His eyes were on the joy set before Him, so He cries out for deliverance, and is heard.

VERSE 22

"I will declare Thy Name unto My brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise Thee." In three days and three nights Jesus will come forth from the grave as victorious, and shall assemble with His church and glorify the Father in praise and thanksgiving (John 20:19, 20).

Conclusion: We have a perfect pattern set forth by the Head of the church, as to our attitudes and actions in view of any suffering or affliction we might undergo in the service of God, as well as being made to realize that God is working all things after the counsel of His own will.

(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).

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

FEBRUARY 6, 1982

PAGE THREE

Tarry at a promise until God meets you there. He always returns by that road.

The Baptist Examiner Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

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

In Romans 8:20 we are told that creation was made subject to vanity. My question is, who subjected it?

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The word vanity as used here denotes that the thing has failed in its results for which it was designed. The whole creation (the heavens and earth, the elements, the plants and animals) all created to serve man, the one made in God's image. When Adam sinned, the curse pronounced upon him and all of his race included that which served him — all of creation. In Genesis 3:17, 18 we read, "And unto Adam He said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field." The last part of Romans 8:20 tells us "—by reason of Him who hath subjected the same in hope."

From this we see that all of creation, which was created perfect and pronounced good by God, because of sin, God subjected it to vanity or "bondage of corruption" as it is called in verse 21 of Romans 8.

As we look about us at the weeds, thistles and thorns, as we experience earthquakes, floods, and storms, we can see that this is the result of sin and that creation under sentence of God was subjected to vanity.

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"For the creature was made subject to vanity..." (Rom. 8:20).

"...Cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life. Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee" (Gen. 2:17, 18).

Because of the sin of man, God put a curse on creation which is described as "made subject to vanity" in Romans 8:20. This means that creation will not during this time of subjection be able to realize its full potential. No one but God knows what this earth is capable of producing, or what the

animal creation is capable of. We will learn this during the glorious Millennial reign of Jesus Christ.

In our text, all animate and inanimate creation is personified as reaching forth and longing for the day when it will be released from its present condition of bondage.

It is God who subjected creation to vanity. It is His creation, and He alone has the right to say what its condition shall be. He alone has the power to bring about this subjection. Man is totally helpless in this matter. Man cannot create. Man cannot obtain from creation anything but that which God permits. Man could not subject the creation to any bondage and thus keep it from realizing its full potential. Man may think that he has harnessed creation, and is using its powers to the fullest, and is bringing forth therefrom all that can be done. But the Millennium will show man how weak his has been, and is, in this respect. And even now, thinking men realize their ineffectiveness in these matters.

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Upon reading the entire 8th chapter we are able to see more clearly what this verse is speaking about. The "creature" in these verses refer to the physical or outward body while the "sons of God" are the soul or inward man of the saved individual. (See verses 13, 14). (Actually the next 3 forum questions would be answered together because it will be necessary to repeat ourselves in these answers.) The creature also refers to all of creation, or the physical part of creation. The sin of man brought a curse on creation, or at least the ground. All of creation suffered because of man's sin.

"And the Lord God said unto the serpent, because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. Unto the woman He said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam He said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life. Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to

thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." (Gen. 3:14-18).

Who caused it? Mankind, in Adam & Eve, was the direct cause by yielding to temptation. Satan was the indirect cause by bringing temptation to Adam and Eve.

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Romans 8:20: "For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of Him Who hath subjected the same in hope."

God is the Creator of all existence, and besides Him there is no creator. Thus it is, we read from the inspired record, "the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof" (Psa. 24:1; I Cor. 10:26). I seriously doubt there being one in the true aggregate of believers who would take variance with the premise that all of creation exists for the glory of God. Does it not go without saying, the omniscient Creator would not create anything that would not eternally redound to His own glory? Proverbs 16:4: "The Lord hath made all things for Himself, even the wicked for the day of evil." Revelation 4:11: "Thou art worthy O Lord, to receive glory and honor, and power: for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created."

God's purpose is eternal and omnipotent (Isa. 14:24, Eph. 3:11), and all of creation in time and eternity is infallibly subservient to God's purpose to glorify Himself. God conceiveth the sublimest designs, the grandeur of which are so elevated they soar infinitely above the ultimate scope of all combined human learning. Adam's transgression whereby God subjected all of creation outside of Heaven where He dwelleth with those creatures (elect angels, cherubims, seraphims) not made subject to vanity, inexplicably fits into God's purpose to glorify Himself. Satan is the one who introduced sin into the human family, he is the murderer of our original parents, but be it understood, he could not do this diabolical thing contrary to God's will. Had Satan acted in this, independent of God, rest assured, he would never have "subjected the same in hope."

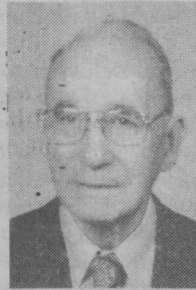
Adam was created by God, he belonged to God ("all souls are mine" Ezek. 18:4), and our Lord asks, "Is it not lawful for Me to do what I will with mine own?" (Mt. 2:15). It was God Who invoked the threatened penalty (Gen. 2:17), and it was God Who said to Adam, "Cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat

of it all the days of thy life" (Gen. 3:17). From this awful and ultimate vanity, where sin, sickness, and death prevails, the believer shall one day be fully and eternally delivered.

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In the true sense, only God can create. God, then, is the sole Proprietor of all creation.

Therefore, in compliance with God's eternal purpose when Adam sinned, as the lord of the old creation, so, also, as of necessity, all creation "was subject to vanity, not willingly but by reason of Him who hath subjected the same in hope" (Rom. 8:20).

Then, too, in response to this "hope," as found only in Christ Jesus, "the creation itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Rom. 8:21).

Yes, even the animal and material creation, as cursed for man's sake (Gen. 3:17), will be delivered by Christ Jesus, as related in Romans 8:18-23 and Isaiah 11:6-9.

So, in this consideration, Paul, in personifying creation, represents it only as submitting to the vanity with which it was smitten on man's account; yes, as on man's account, in obedience to that superior Power, which had mysteriously linked its destiny with that of redeemed humanity. Yes, by reason of Him (God) Who hath subjected the same in hope, because, in that hope, the creature itself also, even the creature itself, shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption, even the principle of decay, into the glorious liberty of the children of God, in freedom from debility and decay, in which the children of God, when raised up in glory, shall expiate into this freedom from corruptibility, from which creation itself shall, in a glorious sense, be so delivered.

Consequently, if for man's sake alone the earth was cursed, it should not be surprising to us that the earth also should be a recipient in the redemptive process of the recovery of man from the present sin-blighted condition, which is in harmony with God's perspective, as taught in the Word of God.

Yes, though "the creation was subject to vanity, not willingly but by reason of Him (God) Who hath subjected the same in hope" (Rom. 8:20), yet, they willingly went into idolatrous and other evil practices, to which the devil made them subject, as slaves, in leading them captive at his will, and powerfully worked in them, by Divine permission. Therefore, they became vassals to him, and to their lusts. Yet, among such, God had an elect people, whom, He "subjected...in hope" (Rom. 8:20).

ATONEMENT

(Continued from Page 1)

inheritance of Elimelech. First a kinsman with a prior right must have the opportunity to redeem this inheritance. He could not do so, and Boaz performed the part of kinsman redeemer. Boaz

is thus a type of Christ who acts the part of kinsman redeemer to all the elect. There are other Biblical illustrations of this truth which picture to us what our Lord is doing in Revelation 5 in taking the Book. The seven seals of Revelation cover the entire Tribulation and bring us to the Lord's setting up of His glorious Millennial reign.

This book is seen on the right hand of the One upon the throne. The question is asked as to who is worthy to open the book and loose the seals: that is, to bring to pass the things written in this book. There is no man in all the universe who is able to open this book. Beloved friends, man is totally unable to bring about the glorious reign of holiness, peace, and prosperity upon this earth. All men and all political programs have and will fail to do this. Don't put all your eggs in Reagan's basket lest they be broken. Put them in Jesus's basket and they will be safe. There is going to be a time of glorious holiness and peace all over this earth. But it will be brought to pass, not by man, but by Jesus Christ. All history records the fact that no man is able to open the seven sealed book and bring to pass what is therein.

John weeps over this situation. He, I believe, was aware of what this book meant. He had often prayed "Thy kingdom come," and longed for that glad-some day. He now wept as he thought of no one being able to open this book. His tears are dried as he is informed that there is one who has prevailed to open this book. He looks and sees a Lamb with the marks of death upon Him. Jesus is the lion of the tribe of Judah who prevails to open the book. He prevailed by taking the part of the Lamb of God and dying for the sins of the elect of God. Yes! Jesus is The Worthy One. By His death, He has prevailed, and is therefore qualified and able to open the book.

I believe that this shows us that our Lord will have the scars of His cruel death upon Him through eternity. I do verily believe that all the scars of sin, all the bodily defects of life will be absent from the bodies of the glorified saints of God. But not from the dear Lamb of God! Yes, we shall see, as Thomas did, the marks in His hands and feet and side. They will be the marks upon Him of His exceeding great love for us. This Lamb has seven horns and seven eyes which speak of the seven-fold plenitude of the Holy Spirit upon Him, and the perfect wisdom and strength thereof. This Lamb takes the book from the one upon the throne. The rest of this chapter tells of the praise given to this Worthy One who made an atonement of prevailing efficacy.

Let us look awhile at The Worthy one. This word is used in Verses 2, 4, 9, & 12 of this chapter. Beloved, our Lord Jesus Christ is the supremely Worthy One. He is totally and supremely worthy in and of Himself whether anyone else ever recognizes this or not. He is perfect in all His being and attributes. Men may not recognize this. Men may belittle Him, use His blessed name in their vile and horrible oaths, may write books against Him, but all this does not put one speck of dirt or make one black mark against the infinitely whiteness of His immaculate Holiness.

He is worthy in the sight of His Father who said of Him, "This is my beloved son in

(Continued on Page 5 Column 1)

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whom I am well pleased." The Father recognizes and proclaims the worthiness of this One. This eternally Worthy One did not lose any of, or mar in any degree, His worthiness by His life upon this earth. He lived a perfect life on the earth. He is the only one who has ever done this. All the claims of men to live above or without sin are terrible lies and are blasphemous insults against the perfect Lord Jesus Christ. I would rather claim to be the most loathsome and vile person who ever lived on the earth, than to claim to live above and without sin — and it would be much nearer the truth. The worthiness of His life on this earth is testified to by His Father. Also, the demons recognized this when they cried, "I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God." His enemies were forced to admit this when some said, "never man spake like this," and when Pilate said, "I find no fault in this man." And, of course, all those who have been and are saved by His grace and power delight to affirm of Him that He is the eternally and perfectly Holy and Worthy One.

We see the absolute necessity of His perfection when we read in Exodus 12:5 that the passover Lamb must be without blemish, and read in I Peter 1:19 that we are redeemed with the precious blood of Christ as of a Lamb without spot and without blemish. He must be the Worthy One if He is to offer to God an acceptable sacrifice for the sins of the elect people of God. How infinitely important it is that we maintain the absolute perfection of Jesus Christ. For if the slightest speck of the least defilement be upon His life, it would consign us to an eternity of hell. The sacrifice that atones for sin must be sinless in itself.

This Worthy One offered Himself as a sacrifice to God. Note the word "slain" in Revelation 5:6, 9, & 12. Yes, He was slain. He died a horrible and cruel death. The only perfect life upon this earth was ended by the cruel murder of Calvary. Men took Him and with wicked hands put Him to death. But His death was much more than this. It was a sacrifice which He freely offered to His Father. It was the white hot heat of the Father's Holiness burning in its awful wrath against sin that truly slew the Son of God. Yes, He suffered at the hands of cruel and wicked men. But He suffered even more in the furnace of His Father's wrath as He bore the exact equivalent of what the total number of the elect would have suffered in an eternity in the raging fires of hell.

The sacrifice He offered is a prevailing one. Please note in Revelation 5 the connection between "prevailed" in verse 5 and "the slain Lamb" in verse 6. John is told that the lion of the Tribe of Judah hath prevailed to open the book. John looks and sees a lamb as it had been slain. Oh, my brother, know and believe that it is by and because of His death that He hath prevailed. Then, note in this chapter the connection between "worthy" and "slain" in verse 9 & 12. It was as the Spirit impressed these things upon my mind and heart that I changed the title of my sermon from "THE WORTHY ONE" to "THE PREVAILING EFFICACY OF THE ATONEMENT OF THE WORTHY ONE." Do you see the difference between those two

titles? Do you see that the latter title is the true teaching of this wonderful chapter? The outstanding teaching of Revelation chapter 5 is that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ prevails to the total accomplishment of all it was meant to do. Please read this sentence again and again. It is the heart of my message. Yea, it is the heart of the gospel of Christ.

This view of the death of Christ — that it accomplishes all it was meant to — is the only worthy conception we can hold. It is the only position that properly honors Jesus Christ and His shed blood. The Arminian doctrine of the death of Christ is totally unworthy of and dishonoring to our dear Lord. The Arminian teaching of the death of Christ reminds me of the toy car received by the little boy which will not go unless and until a battery is placed therein. Arminians teach that the death of Christ is a totally useless thing and that it will avail nothing at all until the battery of the "free will" of man is put therein. According to Arminianism, it is the "free will" of man that makes the atonement work. How utterly horrible! I wonder if there is in all religion a doctrine that dishonors Jesus Christ any more than to say that His death is ineffective apart from the work of man.

Let us notice the prevailing efficacy of the atonement of the Worthy One. It prevails to the opening of the sealed book and to the bringing to pass of the obtaining of the purchased inheritance of the redeemed ones. The glorious Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ and the even more glorious eternal state are brought about by, and on the basis of, the atonement of Jesus Christ. Had He not died, and had not His atonement a prevailing efficacy, we would never know on this earth the glory we shall know, see, and participate in.

It prevails unto the redemption of all for whom it was made. It was not a redemption that was made and offered to man to receive or reject.

The death of Christ actually and eternally redeems all for whom He died. Verse 9 of this chapter says, "...for thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God..." The person who teaches that Christ died for every one ever living on the earth does not even understand the words which are used relative to the atonement. The words "redeem," "ransom," "atone" and many others all teach the effectiveness of the atonement. The universal atonement advocate has a "ransom that does not ransom," an "atonement that does not atone," and a "redemption that does not redeem."

Verse 9 of Revelation 5 is a Biblical exposition of the universal words such as "all" and "world" which are sometimes used relative to the saving work of Jesus Christ. It is not "all without exception," but "all without distinction" that is meant. It is not the "world" including all who ever live, but it is the world of all kinds, classes, races, etc., that are included in the death of Jesus Christ. Read Verse 9 again. It is not every one of every kindred, tongue, people, and nation, but some out of all these that are redeemed.

The atonement of the Worthy One prevails unto the redeemed ones being made kings and priests unto God. What a blessed and holy calling we have! Just call me "Priest Joe." Just call me "King Joe." And, beloved, these titles apply to all the

ones redeemed by the Blood. The Bible knows nothing at all about the new heresy of "The Priesthood of the Church." This is totally a man-made doctrine. It is a new doctrine and new doctrines are not true and Biblical doctrines. According to my text, everyone redeemed by blood is a priest unto God. Let us rejoice therein and let us perform our priestly duties of worship, praise, and prayer. I said a few years ago, when some were pushing the priesthood of the church, that the next new doctrine would be "the kingdom of the church." And why not? For the Scriptures used to teach priesthood, if they do teach this, also teach kingdom.

Well, I have lived to hear Amillennial heretics tell me that we are in the millennium by being in the church. Wow! Now, it takes a lot of human imagination to call being in the church being in the Millennial Reign of Christ as that reign is taught in the Bible. Being in the church is a glorious privilege and blessing, but it is in no wise related to the Millennium. Brethren, every redeemed child of God is a priest to God and is a king to God.

The atonement of the Worthy One prevails to the reigning upon this earth of every redeemed one who is saved prior to that reign. Did I say reigning in the eternal state? Did I say reigning in the intermediate state between death and the resurrection? Did I say being in the church? No, I did not say any of these things. Why did I not say one or the other of these things? Because I am not an Amillennialist and because the Bible does not say these things, and because I believe the Bible when it says we shall reign ON THE EARTH. Oh, what a glory lies ahead for the redeemed ones. Yes, the atonement of the Worthy One has a prevailing efficacy.

The Worthy One should receive much honor and praise for and because of His prevailing atonement: and He will. In Revelation 5:9 we have the praise of the redeemed ones. I cannot accept the deletion of "us" from verse 9 or the chang-

ing of "us" to "them" and of "we" to "they" in verse 10. Because these things are not translation differences, but result from the using of a different Greek text, and I am a strong advocate of the Textus Receptus from which the KJV was translated. Here we have the redeemed ones giving praise to the Redeemer. Then, in verses 1 and 2, we have a hundred million plus millions of angels giving praise to the Worthy One. Then in verses 13 and 14, we have the entire universe giving praise to the Lamb and the One upon the throne. This scene is an exposition of Philip- pians 2:9-11. Praise God, some glad day our Lord will receive the praise He so richly deserves.

Revelation, chapters 4 & 5, describe scenes in Heaven following the rapture. They are a postlude to the rapture and a prelude to the tribulation. The rapture ends the church age on earth, and occurs in the chronology of Revelation in the place indicated by Revelation 4:1. From this point to the end of the Book, we are shown the things which will take place after the end of the church age and after the rapture. Therefore, you and I and all who are saved prior to the rapture, will see and participate in the glorious scenes of Revelation chapters 4 & 5. Let us give Him glory and praise now in every way we can, and live daily to His glory. Let us witness to others of these glorious truths.

May God bless you all!

GOD'S CHOSEN

(Continued from Page 1)

We should remember that when we have troubles, trials, afflictions, heartaches, we are in good company. The devil would have us to believe that nobody has problems like ours; however, that is not true. Somewhere amid God's people, there are folk with trials just like ours. We have all been chosen in the furnace of affliction.

II. The Blessings of being in the furnace of affliction.

1. Only precious things are tried by fire.

Precious metals are purified by fire; the waste is burned off. We have so much dross in our lives that we need to be purified by fire. If it were not for our trials, where would our pride be? We would probably be so critical of our brethren that we wouldn't be able to have fellowship with anyone.

Because we are precious in the sight of the Lord, fire must be used; remember, fire is only used on the most precious.

2. God's people are molded in the furnace.

In order to be used of God we must be molded and shaped into the instrument of His choosing.

If I am having troubles, then I want to seek out a child of God that has had many troubles. I would not want to talk of my troubles with someone who has never had any. It follows, the more afflictions we have, the more useful we'll be. The more we'll be made a blessing to others.

I believe men being prepared for and in the ministry, have more afflictions than most, in order that they will be a greater blessing to God's people. Listen: "Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God" (II Cor. 1:4).

The more we go through, the more we will have to help others. Many times we have been helped by those that have gone through deep waters. If we want to be more useful, we must be molded and for that it takes the furnace of affliction.

3. Our enemies are slain in the furnace of affliction.

In the Book of Daniel we read how that the three Hebrew children were cast into the fiery furnace. The heat of the fire slew the men that cast them in. The furnace is hard on the flesh enabling us to not be consumed by the wickedness of the flesh.

4. A place where sacrifices are offered.

Two sacrifices, prayer and praise, belong to the child of God today. Listen: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light" (I Peter 2:9).

Anyone can praise God when everything is going good, but how about when everything is going bad? It is a far better witness to praise God out of the darkness of trial than in the sunshine of blessing. The furnace of affliction gives us a wonderful opportunity to exalt the God of all Grace.

Certainly when tribulations come, we learn what it is to pray.

I remember attending prayer meetings shortly after my conversion. One brother impressed me in the way that he always prayed. Another brother later told me that this man had to learn how to pray, because he had endured so many troubles in his life.

When the people of God pray and praise the Lord in the midst of the furnace of affliction, great things happen. You recall how that two Baptist preachers, Paul and Silas, were beaten, put in prison and had their feet put in stocks. It was a hopeless case, no way out, but it was not a time to give up. They did what we

(Continued on Page 6 Column 1)

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Effective January 10, all non-profit organizations and other preferred mailers received enormous increases in the cost of their postal rates. These increases were ordered as part of the Reagan administration budget cuts.

Our own cost has increased a total of 151% because of this new ruling. Frankly, we don't know which way to turn to raise the additional money which will be necessary to overcome this tremendous raise. We could ask our supporting churches to try to increase their offering, or we could double subscription rates or go to every other week publication.

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
FEBRUARY 6, 1982
PAGE FIVE

The quickest way to get on your feet is to get on your knees.

GOD'S CHOSEN

(Continued from Page 5)

ought to do. Listen: "And at midnight (the darkest of times) Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed" (Acts 16:25, 26).

What later happened was the beginning of the forming of the Philippian Church. Perhaps in our darkest trial we are standing at the brink of the greatest work of our life. We ought to be like Paul and Silas offering prayer and praise instead of complaining and feeling sorry for ourselves.

5. A place of great light.

In the furnace there is great light. We can understand portions of the Bible that before had little meaning. The promises grip our soul and we rejoice in them as never before. The characters of the Bible become real and endeared to us.

The Word of God becomes precious. Consider the man Job. Out of all his trials we find he had a great estimation of God's word: "Neither have I gone back from the commandment of His lips; I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food" (Job 23:12).

Nothing is more necessary to prolong life than food. Yet, even food is not as important to a distressed child of God as the Word of the Lord.

We need the light of the furnace. There are children of God that have little formal education, yet they know more about God's Word than many seminary graduates, because they have been reading by the light of the furnace.

6. There is security in the furnace.

"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee" (Isa. 43:2).

God promises security. There are some things your afflictions cannot do to you. Even the river of sorrows will not overwhelm and drown you. This text reminds us that God has not forgotten us.

I think of Moses; he had been called of God at the age of forty to do a work, but he was not yet prepared. Although educated in the best universities of Egypt and qualified for the throne, still he was not prepared to lead God's people.

He had to spend another forty years on the back side of the desert tending sheep before he would be ready. Each day probably looked so much like the day before it. As the years rolled on, no doubt he was discouraged as he saw no way to fulfill the call of God upon his life.

Finally, it was God's time and at the age of eighty, he began to do what God had put in his heart forty years earlier. God had not forgotten him, only prepared him for the greatest work of his life. The forty years of trial and rejection did not destroy him.

When Ben Mutimer, an English Baptist preacher,

buried two of his children, he felt he could stand no more sorrow. Then the third one died and he found that the Lord had taken away his tears. Miraculously, these sorrows did not destroy him. He thought they would, but God had not forgotten him.

John Bunyan, an English Baptist preacher, was put in jail for sixteen years for preaching the Gospel. His enemies thought it would destroy him but it did not do so; out of prison he wrote what even the world calls a literary masterpiece, "Pilgrim's Progress." God had not forgotten this man in the Bedford jail.

God will not forget you and me. He knows where we are and what we endure. The flame can not kindle upon us. Nothing can destroy that which God has worked in us. It might seem like we'll be consumed, but it just can not happen because God said it will not. God is going to prove it in the furnace of affliction. You understand that when the trial is over, we will know that we have been held secure by the Grace of the Living God.

7. We walk with Jesus in the furnace.

"And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God" (Daniel 3:23-25).

Many will testify that they had greater fellowship with the Lord while enduring trials. He is even more precious in the furnace. His presence is more warmly felt. His lovely features are even clearer. It is then that he is truly the Lily of the Valley, the Friend that sticketh closer than a brother. All earthy friendships pale by comparison.

Old age can indeed be a furnace of affliction. There are aches and pains, some of our loved ones have departed this life, our usefulness has declined and now we are a burden to others. There are greater periods of loneliness, but He is the God of the aged. Listen: "And even to your old age I am He; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you" (Isa. 46:4).

We are often told how that Jesus the Good Shepherd is carrying the lambs in His arms; this verse presents a different picture, Jesus carrying the aged sheep. Our relationship to Him is not based on our usefulness nor our strength, or our worthiness, but strictly on the Grace of God.

The three Hebrew children cast into the fiery furnace enjoyed the fellowship of a fourth individual, even the Son of God Himself.

He has spent time in the furnace with His people. Listen to the picture presented of Him in Revelation: "And His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace..." (Rev. 1:15).

III. The Doctrine of Election is in the furnace with us.

The text says "I have chosen thee." God's people are chosen without any good thing foreseen in them. Before God hung a star



QUESTION:—Where is the only mention of a vestry?

ANSWER:—Second Kings 10:22 - "And he said unto him that was over the vestry, Bring forth vestments for all the worshippers of Baal. And he brought them forth vestments."

in the heavens, He chose a people unto salvation. If you are saved, it is because you were Divinely chosen, a subject of God's distinguishing Grace.

This election took place a long time ago. Listen: "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began" (II Tim. 1:9).

Our text says "thee", meaning a personal election, just like when the Lord spoke to His disciples in John 15:16: "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you..."

Like so many today, the disciples might have had the mistaken idea that they chose Christ; but how wrong they were—He had chosen them.

Some would say, "but I have come to the Lord." This is true, but how and why did you come? Let God answer "...Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee" (Jeremiah 31:3).

And, again, we read, "...no man can come unto Me, except it were given unto him of my Father" (John 6:65).

Divine wisdom wants this doctrine in the furnace with His poor and afflicted people as a comfort to them. Many may deny it and mock at it, but God's people feel the power of it.

I remember preaching along the line of Unconditional Election in a Baptist church in the north of England. At the end of the service, I was at the back door shaking hands with the people as they left. One man came to me, his face was beaming as he grabbed my hand and said, "Praise God, it is true." As he went out into the star-studded night, I could hear him say, "It is true, it is true, it is true." He had found a comfort in the Doctrine of Election.

When King David was met by an angry, sharp-tongued, unbelieving wife, He encouraged himself in the Doctrine of Divine Electing Grace. "...It was before the Lord, which chose me..." (II Samuel 6:21).

Think on it in the midst of the trial. Christ has undertaken to be our sin bearer, quenching the fires of hell for every believer, putting all our life — from the cradle to the grave — under His own soul-cleansing blood, then taking our place in the grave and being raised from the dead for our justification.

We find the doctrine of His sufferings expressed in His own prayer, "...that He should give eternal life to as many as Thou hast given Him" (John 17:2).

We have been given to Christ by God's electing grace before the world began. Such a thought

is too much for us. We can not comprehend such unconditional and unmerited love. Don't our problems and trials grow dim when placed beside such a glorious truth? This is the truth! Listen: "According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world..." (Eph. 1:4). We can only wonder why — for there is no answer, only this, "...being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will" (Eph. 1:11).

I say, your afflictions and mine grow dim and are not as big as we thought, when we think on God's electing grace.

Charles Spurgeon told the story of a bricklayer that met with a terrible accident on the job. As he lay dying in a hospital bed, the local parson came to see him. He said, "Young man, do you know that you are dying?" The young man shook his head "Yes." The parson drew nearer and said, "Make peace with God."

The young man opened his eyes and spoke for the first time.

"How could I ever begin to make peace with God? "But, thank God, Christ made peace with God for me many years ago on Calvary."

Like the hymn writer of old we must say, "Electing Grace has made the treasure mine."

TO THE LOST

Is not this a good doctrine for someone that has no works, no hope, no righteousness, no claim to God.

Jesus said, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

All the elect are going to come to Christ. Anyone that comes to Him will not be sent away. We know He is our only hope, there is no other way for us to be saved.

May God enable you to cast your only hope for Heaven upon the Saviour, for it is written: "To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins" (Acts 10:43).

May God bless you all!

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"WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE RELIGIOUS WORLD TODAY"

PHILADELPHIA (EP)--As the number of unemployed workers reaches its highest total in 41 years, the Salvation Army is preparing to revive the "soup kitchen" program it ran during the Depression. The Bulletin reported December 20.

"The Salvation Army nationally should be prepared, perhaps as early as spring '82, for either a national or a territorial campaign program for the poor...on the basis of a national emergency," the organization's national task force said in the minutes of a recent meeting, according to the Bulletin's copyright story.

So far the need for soup kitchens only has been discussed, the newspaper said. But because 9 million people are unemployed--the highest number in 41 years--and 687,000 families are due to lose all or part of their benefits under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program, the Salvation Army's national leadership has ordered regional offices to ready themselves for a national emergency, The Bulletin said.

"The territories and divisions should form a group to develop practical responses to (the needs of) the poor--victory gardens, food cupboards, clothing distribution, soup kitchens, etc.," the task force's minutes said.

Each of the Salvation Army's four territories--East, South, Central and West--operates autonomously and will develop its own plans, Lt. Col. Hartell told the newspaper. Col. Fleming said the possibility of a nationwide soup kitchen program "has been discussed and in many, many instances is definitely being considered."

NEW YORK (LP)--"The Bible," said the Reader's Digest editor, "is not read as much as people think it is, and the reason is simply that it is too long and complex."

So it came to pass that Reader's Digest embarked on one of its most ambitious book-condensation projects: the Holy Scriptures.

And, lo, after two years of preliminary study and three of actual editing, only the proof reading tasks are left before publication next September.

The condensed version of the Bible is reduced in volume by 40 percent, just as initial studies predicted.

The sensitive but not secret project surprisingly produced little gnashing of teeth and rending of garments by believers. To answer public inquiries, Reader's Digest issued a general statement to assure people that all 66 books used by Christians and all the biblical incidents, teachings and personalities have been retained.

Influential clergymen Norman Vincent Peale and Oral Roberts, among others, have praised the few samples sent out for previewing, according to Jack Walsh, the editor who headed the Bible project at the company's plant in Pleasantville, N.Y.

The Reader's Digest condensed Bible has been assailed as "a damnable heresy" and an attempt to "censor the Bible," by Daniel Fore, the recently resigned director of Moral Majority's

New York state chapter. Mr. Fore said he would launch a nationwide boycott against the publishing company.

Mr. Fore said his resignation last month from Moral Majority was forced because of adverse reactions to remarks he made that Jews have "an almost supernatural ability to make money" and that Catholics were not Christians.

But he indicated his differences with the political organization founded by Jerry Falwell extended to the Reader's Digest project as well. The condensed Bible issue, Mr. Fore said, is "more important than abortion, homosexuality or the arms race." But he also said a leader in the national Moral Majority told him "it was a silly issue and I shouldn't have brought it up."

SAN ANTONIO (EP)--A housewife who was held hostage for 10 hours by a mass murder suspect says she preached to him about Jesus and gave him her handwritten book of Bible verses in exchange for the bullets in his gun.

Margaret Mayfield, 30, said that when Stephen Peter Morin abducted her at gunpoint in a department store parking lot December 18 after escaping a police dragnet, "his eyes were filled with hatred and hurt, like a wild animal." But, she said, after she preached to him, read from her personal book of Bible quotations and persuaded him to go to an evangelist, he unloaded his .38 caliber pistol and swapped the cartridges for the book.

The 34-year-old man, who is suspected of killing up to 20 young women in nine states, then hugged her, kissed her on the forehead and smiled as he boarded a bus, she said.

The suspect was arrested early December 19 at an Austin bus station without resistance after Miss Mayfield notified police. Austin police spokesman Sam Ballard confirmed that the suspect's pistol was unloaded when he was taken into custody.

Stephen Peter Morin, a native of Providence, R.I., has been charged with the killing of Carrie Scott, 21, last Friday in San Antonio, the slaying of two young women at St. George, Utah, and he is wanted for questioning in numerous rapes, kidnappings and slayings in nine states, police said.

Miss Mayfield said the defendant cried and told her his life story, including a deep-seated hatred for his mother, during the time she was a hostage. She said he grew calmer as she told him about Christ, read from the Scriptures and played him tapes of Fort Worth evangelist Kenneth Copeland. Miss Mayfield said it was only chance that had led her to take the book and tapes with her on her shopping trip.

"I asked him if he would forgive his little son if the son had done all the things he had done," Miss Mayfield said. "He said, 'Yes, I'd die for him.' I said, 'Well, that's what Jesus Christ did for you, just as much as if you were the only person in the world.'"

"He said, 'Lady, you've been preaching to me all day and now I know what you're talking about.'"

WASHINGTON (EP)--A group of high school students seeking to hold prayer meetings at their upstate New York school lost their legal battle here as the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review two lower federal court rulings against the students.

The action, taken unanimously and announced without comment, came just one week after a major ruling that students at state colleges and universities have a constitutional right to worship on campus. In writing for an 8-1 court majority in that case, however, Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr. warned that the decision should not be interpreted as signaling a similar result in the New York case.

Six students at the Guilderland, N.Y., High School took their principal, superintendent of schools and school board to court nearly three years ago after principal Charles Ciaccio and the board refused to grant them permission to conduct prayer meetings inside the school either before or after the school day.

WASHINGTON (EP)--The defeat of a multi-million dollar tuition tax credit plan to aid parochial and private schools in the District of Columbia was the most important development in the church-state field during 1981, according to a year-end analysis of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

"The referendum on tuition tax credits for sectarian schools was the first direct test of the popularity of that form of parochialism," said R. G. Puckett, executive director of Americans United. "The referendum is especially important because it took place in the backyard of the nation's capital, in plain view of the members of Congress who have before them a multi-billion dollar national tuition tax credit plan. The nine to one margin of defeat drives one more large nail in the coffin of the national bill."

2. The Arkansas legislature in March passed a law requiring the teaching of "scientific creationism," a fundamentalist version of the Genesis account of creation, in public schools science classes. The law has been challenged in federal court by religious leaders from the Protestant, Jewish and Catholic faiths.

3. The Packwood-Moynihan tuition tax credit bill remained on hold in the U.S. Senate after the Finance Committee voted 10-5 against including the plan in the Reagan Administration's tax cut bill.

4. Controversy abounded in Congress over attempts to restrict women's constitutional right to abortions.

5. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in December that students at public universities have a constitutional right to worship on campus based on the First Amendment guarantees of free speech and assembly.

6. The Philadelphia city government may not pay for the construction of a special platform used by Pope John Paul II on a visit to the city in 1979.

7. Both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate passed riders to a Justice Department funding bill this year forbidding the use of department money to prevent "programs of voluntary prayer and meditation in the public schools," but final passage was stymied by filibuster threats from Senators who view the riders as unconstitutional and

unnecessary.

8. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to review a Nebraska Supreme Court decision upholding a teacher accreditation law applied to church schools.

9. Two state parochial plans were halted when a federal court in Rhode Island overturned a state statute mandating public transportation of students to parochial schools beyond public school district lines and when the California Supreme Court overturned a state law authorizing textbook loans to parochial schools.

10. Religious minorities are protected by federal civil rights laws from conspiracies against their liberties, a federal appellate court ruled in August. In a major blow to individuals who try to force adults from unpopular religious groups, the court held in Ward V. Connor that a "deprogramming" victim may sue those who conspire to remove him from his chosen faith even if they are relatives whose intentions are good.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (EP)--Contemporary Christians must "come to grips" with humanism if they expect to speak to today's world, Baptist philosopher Richard B. Cunningham told students and faculty members of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. "Humanism is among the most pervasive and influential universal ideologies of the twentieth century -- at least in the Western world," said Cunningham, professor of Christian philosophy at the seminary.

He said it permeates most areas of contemporary life and culture and involves people who consciously consider the issue and call themselves humanists, as well as "vast numbers of people who live by humanist values, although they may not attach the label to themselves." Cunningham identified two major divisions of humanistic belief, "Naturalistic/secular" and "religious," each with variations.

"The heart of humanism is its emphasis upon the dignity and worth of human beings and their equal value as individuals," Cunningham explained. All forms of humanism stress the importance of human life, human responsibility and potential, the power of human reason to solve problems, good and happiness for all humans and concern for social justice, he said.

"It is evident that many Christians would share a number of these commitments and some Christians all of them, although any particular Christian might interpret them more within a theistic context," he said. "If that is true, then obviously there is some common ground between Christianity and secular humanism."

Nevertheless, the Christian faith takes issue with the naturalistic assumptions of secular humanism, Cunningham said. He claimed secular/naturalistic humanism fails to provide a "persuasive world view" which can justify its position and provide motivation for implementing it.

He called for Christians to "resist the naturalistic world view and principles of secular humanism and bring a reasoned critique to the radically secular position" while also affirming "a range of humanist values that we share in common with all humanisms, including secular humanism." Contending that a true humanism must define human life in terms of a relation

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to God, Cunningham said the Christian faith provides a better framework for humanist values than does secular humanism, and it also provides a more dynamic motivating and sustaining power to act on behalf of humanity.

LOVELAND, Colo. (EP)--Group Magazine, the interdenominational magazine for Christian youth groups, has named its "Best of the Year" winners for the finest Christian albums, books, films and program resources of 1981.

The best album of the year was "Priority" (Dayspring) by The Imperials, judged outstanding in music, lyrics and production. The best book was "Preparing for W*O*R*K" (Victor Books) by John William Zehring, a career aid for Christian young people. The best film of 1981 was "Kevin Can Wait," (Gospel Film) a parable of a young man's discovery of ministering to the "least of these." The best program resource was Lyman Coleman's "Free University/Lay Academy in Christian Discipleship" (Abingdon) a new series of experiential Bible studies.

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RELIGION

(Continued from Page 1)

"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe and tremble" (James 2:19).

Demons do not know Jesus, indeed, cannot know him, as Saviour. They do know him as creator, ruler and judge. Notice in Luke 8:26-33 how completely Jesus is in control. He asks the demons a question, immediately they answer. They cannot go where they wish unless he grants them permission. They are in fear of Him. The demons do not claim that God does not exist for they know He does. The demons live in fear of God, not fearlessly as many unsaved men do. The demons do not say that God is dead, for they know all too well that he is a living God.

Some people think that by attending unto preaching they are safe. When asked of their salvation they reply that they attend such and such church. They say, "Oh, I have been baptized." Church attendance, knowing Christians, listening to preaching will not save you.

Being married to a Christian will not save you. The man who says, "I'll take care of this life and let my wife take care of the next," is actually taking care of neither. The marriage bond is the nearest relationship one individual can have with another, but marriage to the sweetest Christian girl or the most upstanding Christian man will not save you.

Some people believe that there is some kind of magic in what their family believes. "My father and mother were good Baptists," they boast. "My brother is a preacher," they say, as if that carries a great amount of weight with the Lord.

You cannot achieve salvation by your own feeble efforts. One does not learn to become a Christian. One does not practice to be a Christian. One does not buy Christianity.

All men are by nature, by choice, and by practice sinners. "There is none righteous, no not one: there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God" (Romans 3:10,11).

The only hope of salvation that any man has is in the blood of Jesus Christ. "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission" (Hebrews 9:22). Jesus Christ gave himself on Calvary's cross as a sacrifice for the sins of His people. His blood was shed for them there. All of the sins of His people were taken from them and placed upon Him. His blood covers their sins for time and for eternity.

The Philippian jailer inquired of Paul, "What must I do to be saved?" Paul's reply holds true for all. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).

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