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The Baptist Examiner

Baptist Is Our Middle Name

Paid Circulation in All States and in Many Foreign Countries

"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.

VOL. 53, NO. 14

ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, APRIL 10, 1982

WHOLE NUMBER 2370

"IT IS LATER THAN YOU THINK"

(Continued from last week)

We come now to take a close look at the great tribulation which is to be vented upon this earth. Some may wonder why there is to be a great tribulation. The answer is that such is to be a time when God shall avenge the death of His Son. God, in fact, has a "controversy with the nations." It is important to note that "nations" is in the plural rather than the singular. The meaning is that the Gentile nations shared with the Jews in the crucifixion of our Lord.

The Lord Jesus, when on the cross, cried,

"Pour out thine indignation upon them, and let thy wrathful anger take hold of them. Let their habitation be desolate; and let none dwell in their tents. For they persecute Him whom thou hast smitten; and they talk to the grief of thy wounded" (Psalm 69:24-26).

This prayer of our Lord has not yet been answered, but the answer will come during the great tribulation.

We, in dealing with the tribulation, must again emphasize that Matthew 24:21 and 22 do not refer to the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus in 70 A.D. This fact is made evident by Matthew 24:29-31:

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heaven shall be shaken: and then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

It is very obvious, even as we have already pointed out, that the reference in the above verses is to the second phase of our Lord's return. The destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. does not fulfill the prophecy here in Matthew 24; therefore, the ultimate reference is to the final siege of Jerusalem in the battle of Armageddon as is recorded in Revelation 16:13-21; 19:11-21; Zech. 12:2-9; 14:1-7, 12-15.

A careful look at Revelation 7:14 will show that the passage refers to the great tribulation as being in progress.

"And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Rev. 7:14).

These words were spoken regarding the numberless multitude of Revelation 7:9. It is interesting to note that



Willard Willis

Revelation 7:14, when referring to this great multitude, actually says: "...These are they that are

coming out of tribulation, the great one..."

It is to be carefully noted that reference is not to tribulation in general, but to a definite and particular tribulation; namely, the great one. The present participle, "are coming out," shows the great tribulation to be in progress. We, therefore, believe that chapters 6-19 of Revelation have to do with the great tribulation that is yet to come.

The great tribulation will cover a period of about seven years. We say "about seven years," because Matthew 24:22 indicates that those days shall be shortened for the sake of the elect.

The fact that the tribulation will span about seven years is confirmed by the combined time of the prophesying of the two

(Continued on Page 6 Column 1)

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN AND TO GO HEAVEN

Everybody wants to go to Heaven and nobody wants to go to Hell, so they say. But is it really true? According to God's Word, the Bible, the answer is NO! For only Christians — those who have been saved from sin — can go to Heaven, and when people are asked, "Do you want to be a Christian? Do you want to be saved from sin?" they start making such excuses as, "Oh, I intend to become a Christian and be saved from sin someday, but not now, not today."

So you see, people do not really want to go to Heaven or else

they would desire to be saved as quickly as possible. We read in the Bible why people do not want to be saved. These verses of Scripture we quote below also give the reason.

WHY PEOPLE NEED TO BE SAVED

"All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

"There is none righteous, no not one: there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become un-

(Continued on Page 5 Column 3)

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon By Ron Boswell

"THE REMEDY"

"...the blood of the Lamb..." (Rev. 12:11).

In these words, we have the remedy for all of man's problems.

Many years ago in the country, people had what they considered a universal remedy for every illness, even snake bite; it was called castor oil. Anytime a child was ill, it was given a dose of castor oil. Large families were brought up with it. You might say it was a medication for every circumstance; however, it was not always effective.

The remedy that I want to talk to you about is always effective. It cures man's problems, going right to the core of the problem, even sin.

Let us consider, first of all, that this is not a new remedy.

I. The Ancient Remedy

The new religions claim to

have a cure for man. Communism claims to have the cure. Democracy claims to have the cure.

I want to take you back before there was a Communist, before there was a democracy, before the new religions arose, even before there was a man, before the world was brought into existence by God. Listen: "...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Rev. 13:8).

In Heaven, Jesus was known at that time as the Lamb slain. God's remedy is older than creation. We are not preaching a new answer, a new religion, but a cure that is older than the hills themselves. The blood of the Lamb, God's only remedy.

The first man and woman were taught God's remedy. When Adam and Eve had sinn-

Raymond A. Waugh, Sr.
Dear Brother...:

Thank you for your call this evening. It was good to speak with you. Since your mother phoned me from Florida last



Raymond Waugh

week, you have been upon my heart. I was grieved when I phoned and found that your phone had been disconnected,

but in faith I trusted the Lord to work it all out. He did that this evening after I had spoken with your mother again, and you, then, called me.

I can understand how concerned she is about her "boy," and, regardless of your age, you will always be that. After talking with you, I believe that I can have a word of encouragement for you, the one she brought up in the promise of the Lord. In your life, I believe that we are seeing the fulfillment of that promise, "Bring up a child in the way that he should go, and when he is older, he will not depart from the way."

Though there seems to be a bit of uncertainty in your dear mother's heart at this time, I call you brother with confidence because you have indicated that you have confessed the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour! Only God, Himself, could have

(Continued on Page 3 Column 1)

WHAT ABOUT STRONG DRINK

by H. R. Young

Legalized strong drink has brought forth national drunkenness and caused all wickedness to multiply. National drunkenness is a foreshadow of the fall of the nation. The only thing that will save her, is for her to repent.

America may, in her drunkenness, feel, that she is rich, a land of plenty, clothed in fine clothes, while she is naked, poor, miserable and wretched in God's sight. The land mourns because of her sins, and fear walks on every hand. The people of America have sinned against God, who made their nation great. Pray God, to call all the drinkers of strong drink to repentance; the rich and the poor, the high and the low, the learned and the unlearned.

We do not know, but the Lord knows all things, how elected men in high places, since the days when national prohibition ended, keep quiet; few if any, make mention of prohibition. They have somehow, seemed content, to let strong-drink con-

tinue legalized. This, in pride, with a smile and in untold wealth, strong-drink walks over the cry of God's Word by His servants. What God says about strong-drink has been trampled under foot by the people of the nation. The people of America have sinned greatly against God, by legalizing strong-drink and then permitting it to remain legalized until now. Unless they repent soon, surely, God will visit America with judgment for her sins. God cannot be ignored by any individual or nation. He is God. He rules in the affairs of men.

In this land, public servants are elected by the people, to serve the people, by carrying out their wishes. These elected public servants are to champion the rights of the people who elect them. Also, these elected public servants are to act as mouthpieces, for right, for the people who elect them. How long, must the children suffer for the sins of their fathers who repealed the 18th amendment? Pray God to have mercy and forgive all who voted to legalize strong-drink, for they knew not what they were doing. They were deceived. Pray God to call the people of the nation to repentance. Unless America repents, we know by the Word of God, that soon God's judgments shall be visited upon her. America is no exception to the rule of God's judgments, which have always, since ancient times, been visited upon nations which forget God. America is doomed unless she repents and causes drunkenness to cease. "The wicked shall be turned into Hell, and all the nations that forget God" (Psa. 9:17). Jesus the Lord of Glory, said, "Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness..." (Luke 21:34).

To all who know God, who created the Heaven, the earth, the sun, moon and stars, and all the people; all who love this nation; their homes; their sons and daughters; and little ones; all who read; do not let this die, pass it on, tell others about it, show it to others, talk about it, speak about it, write about it,

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(USPS 042-340)

The Baptist Examiner

THE BAPTIST PAPER FOR
THE BAPTIST PEOPLE

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Acting Editor

Editorial Department, located in
ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, where all
subscriptions and communications
should be sent. Address: P.O. Box 71,
Zip Code 41101.

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PUBLISHED WEEKLY, except last week of
December, with paid circulation in every state and
many foreign countries.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One year \$4.00; Two years \$7.00
Five years \$14.00
CLUB RATE: 15 or more each \$3.00

When you subscribe for others or
secure subscriptions each \$3.00

BUNDLES: 10 to 50 copies to one address \$20.00 for
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1978, in the post office of Ashland, Kentucky,
under the Act of March 3, 1879.

REMEDY

(Continued from Page 1)

in the book of Genesis and never
again did he hide himself or say
that he was naked.

The question is, How did God
get the skins to make coats? The
skins must have been on living
animals. God had to slay the
animal and there had to be the
shedding of the blood. God
made a very graphic picture of
the innocent slain for the guilty.
A picture was presented of the
Blood of Calvary's Lamb, even
Christ.

When God makes us to know
we are naked, we need the
remedy, the Blood of the Lamb.

I say this is an ancient
remedy. All the people that were
saved in the Bible, were saved in
this way. Everyone that has ever
been saved, has been saved in
this way. The one thing that all
of the saints have in common is
being washed in the Blood of the
Lamb.

II. The Remedy For Guilt

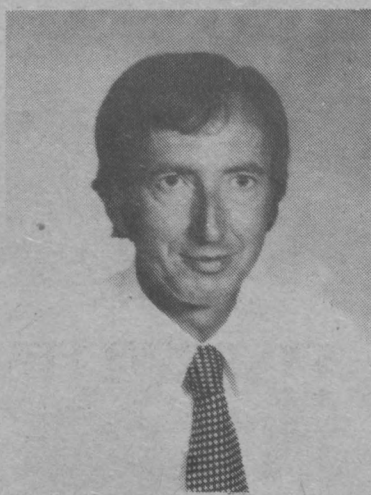
You can not serve God with a
guilty conscience, listen: "How
much more shall the blood of
Christ, who through the eter-
nal Spirit offered himself
without spot to God, purge
your conscience from dead
works to serve the living
God?" (Heb. 9:14).

They say that many suicides
are the result of guilt. In order
to be free from guilt, they try to
punish themselves by taking
their own lives.

Hal Lindsey, in his book
Satan is Alive and Well on
Planet Earth, relates an in-
teresting true story on the sub-
ject. A young wife committed
adultery while her husband was
away on a trip. She recognized it
as a sin and asked God's
forgiveness but did not really
believe she had received it.
Later in life the couple had a
son. The woman was still
plagued by guilt, so she confess-
ed all to her husband and he
freely forgave her. Several years
later, he returned home one
evening to find his wife strangl-
ing the child. The reason was

her guilt was so big that she
wanted to inflict punishment on
herself by killing the one she lov-
ed so dearly.

I say there is a remedy for
guilt, no matter how big or how
awful that guilt may be. It's
Blood, Blood, Blood — the



Ron Boswell

Blood of the Lamb.

I have heard many say that
they would not join the church
because they are too unworthy,
that they would not engage in
Christian service because they
are too unworthy, that they
would not be baptized because
they are too unworthy. It is true
we are all unworthy, but if saved,
we have been washed in the
Blood of the Lamb.

When guilt from the past
arises, we should think on the
Blood that Jesus shed, it is
God's remedy.

III. The Remedy For Hell

God gives us a list of people
that are going to Hell; listen:
"...Be not deceived: neither
fornicators, nor idolaters, nor
adulterers, nor effeminate,
nor abusers of themselves
with mankind, nor thieves,
nor covetous, nor drunkards,
nor revilers, nor extortioners,
shall inherit the kingdom of
God" (I Cor. 6:9, 10).

I believe everyone could find
themselves somewhere in that
list. It's God's Heaven and He
says who isn't going there. Is
there a remedy for such a bleak
outlook? There is no way out for
the mouth of the Lord has
spoken it; but wait, read the
next verse: "And such were
some of you: but ye are wash-
ed..." (I Cor. 6:11).

The difference then, is
whether we are washed or not
washed. It doesn't say anything
about works, but about being
washed. The washing is so com-
plete that the drunkard is no
longer a drunkard, the adulterer
is no longer an adulterer; listen:
"...Their sins and iniquities
will I remember no more" (Heb. 10:17).

IV. The Remedy For The Jews

The Bible lets us know that
many Jews will be saved during
the Tribulation Period. Listen:
"In that day there shall be a
fountain opened to the house
of David and to the in-
habitants of Jerusalem for sin
and for uncleanness" (Zechariah 13:1).

This fountain is filled with the
Blood of the Lamb. How will it
be opened to the house of David
and to the inhabitants of
Jerusalem?

Just before the Tribulation
Period begins, all the saved will
be raptured out of this world.
Then God will send two
preachers from Heaven to
preach, for it is written: "...it
pleased God by the
foolishness of preaching to
save them that believe" (I Cor. 1:21).

They will be made to know by
the Holy Spirit that they are sin-
ners and that there is a remedy.
Listen: "...I will pour upon

the house of David, and upon
the inhabitants of Jerusalem,
the spirit of grace and of sup-
plications: and they shall look
upon me whom they have
pierced..." (Zechariah 12:10).

Right now, the Jewish people
in general are blinded to Christ
until a time set by God, listen:
"...blindness in part is hap-
pened to Israel, until the
fulness of the Gentiles be
come in" (Romans 11:25).

There is only one remedy for
Jew or Gentile. There is no
other way to be made just and
no other way to escape the wrath
of God. Listen: "...being now
justified by his blood, we
shall be saved from wrath
through him" (Romans 5:9).

V. Remedy Over The Devil's Work

In the scriptures, we find the
word Satan used 52 times. It
means enemy or adversary. He
is the enemy or adversary of
God and the children of God.
The question is, How does he
generally work against us? In
order to answer this, we must
consider his other title, "the
Devil."

The word Devil is used in
Scripture 35 times and means
slanderer or the accuser; so
then, we find his way is gener-
ally to slander or accuse us. By a
careful mixture of half-truths
and lies, he tries to discredit us
in every way. He is not above a
boldfaced lie for we read in John 8:44, "...he is a liar, and the
father of it."

Satan is very good at what he
does, making his stories very
believable and delivering them
through respectable in-
struments.

Paul found the devil was at
work in the church at Corinth;
listen: "For his letters, say
they, are weighty and power-
ful; but his bodily presence is
weak, and his speech con-
temptible" (II Cor. 10:10).
Who would say such a thing
about the beloved apostle? No
doubt, the same one that would
say the same about you and me.

Consider Mephibosheth, a
good illustration of the Grace of
God. When King David had to
flee Jerusalem due to a rebellion
led by Absalom, his faithful ser-
vants went with him. Mephibosheth was crippled in
both feet and no one helped
him, so it was impossible for
him to go along. When David
was met by Mephibosheth's ser-
vant, he asked where he was and
it was then that Satan slandered
and lied about Mephibosheth.
Listen: "And the king said,
And where is thy master's
son? And Ziba said unto the
king, Behold, he abideth at
Jerusalem: for he said, To
day shall the house of Israel
restore me the kingdom of my
father" (II Sam. 16:3). It was
the good job of slander.

Mephibosheth was of the
lineage of King Saul; therefore,
in uncertain times would not
Israel seek another king? And
who else but one of royal
lineage? However, it was a lie
but you can see how believable it
was. You that are saved can no
doubt identify with
Mephibosheth, knowing what it
is to be slandered.

Watchman Nee, a Chinese
preacher, was imprisoned by the
Communists. In order to stop
his influence and to discredit
him, they said he was a
womanizer. His good name has
outlived the slander, but it is a
good illustration of how Satan
works.

When Arthur Stone, an
English Baptist preacher, took
the pastorate at Warboys, he
visited the homes in the area in-
viting the people to services. At

many homes, the people would
criticize different members of
his church. Finally, when he
visited and someone would
start, he would say, "I really
don't want to hear that because
they are my brothers and sisters
in Christ." He had recognized
the work of the slanderer.

Consider Nehemiah, he had
gone to Jerusalem to help God's
people, all under the blessing of
the king whose servant he was.
Satan, through his servants,
threatened to tell the king that
Nehemiah was rebelling against
him. It was all a lie, but listen to
how well it was put together,
"...It is reported among the
heathen; and Gashmu saith it,
that thou and the Jews think
to rebel: for which cause thou
buildest the wall, that thou
mayest be their king, accord-
ing to these words. And thou
hast also appointed prophets
to preach of thee at
Jerusalem, saying, There is a
king in Judah: and now shall
it be reported to the king ac-
cording to these words..." (Neh. 6:6, 7).

Many times God's people
pass on information or believe
reports that are merely Satan's
slander. I believe we ought to
make Satan use his own servants
and certainly not the servants of
God. Let's not serve the Devil
through ignorance or the flesh.
Remember, the instrument you
carry against a child of God may
some day be hurled against you.

No doubt I speak to someone
whose name has been dragged
through the mud. Some people
misunderstand you, even good
people, yet brother, sister, this is
even an evidence that you are
Satan's enemy, that he works
against you.

Consider the work of Satan
against Christ. "The people
answered and said, Thou hast
a devil..." (John 7:20); and
again, "Then answered the
Jews, and said unto him, Say
we not well that thou art a
Samaritan and hast a devil?" (John 8:48).

Child of God, do folks say you
are a fanatic? Do they say you
are evil? Do they say you don't
have your right mind? They also
said it of your Lord. Can we ex-
pect better treatment than our
Lord? I think not.

We have a remedy against
such an enemy. Our text says,
"And they overcame him by
the blood of the Lamb..." (Rev. 12:11). What are such
devices of the powers of
darkness against the cleansing
Blood of the Lamb? There is no
power against the blood; listen:
"Who shall lay anything to
the charge of God's elect?..." (Romans 8:33), and again,
"Who is he that condemneth?
It is Christ that died, yea
rather, that is risen again..." (Romans 8:34).

When the slander gets worse,
the more precious becomes the
Blood of the Lamb to us.

Satan not only works against
us in the world, but also before
God Himself, bringing us to our
next point.

VI. Our Remedy Before God

Listen to our text, "...the ac-
cuser of our brethren is cast
down, which accused them
before our God day and
night. And they overcame
him by the blood of the
Lamb..." (Rev. 12:10, 11).

Satan goes before God day
and night, never ceasing to ac-
cuse us. He never sleeps.

Consider how he worked
against Job. Satan told God that
Job only served Him for what he
could get by way of material
blessings. When He was proven
wrong, He wanted power to in-

flict Job's body, so he said,
"...Skin for skin, yea, all that
a man hath will he give for his
life" (Job. 2:4). He said Job
was false, but it was not true.

Now imagine Satan pointing
out all your coldness, your hard-
ness, your sins, with the same
skill he used against Job.

What defense is there? What
hope can we have? I fear that
Satan doesn't always have to lie
about us, some of what he says
may be true.

The only hope is our great
high priest; listen: "Now unto
him that is able to keep you
from falling, and to present
you faultless before the
presence of his glory..." (Jude 24).

He presents us faultless,
without flaw, without imperfec-
tion and He does it by His shed
blood.

Jesus does not go to God the
Father and say, "He has sinned
but if you forgive him, then he
will do better." No! He knows
we might fail again. He doesn't
base His plea on us. He goes to
the Father and says, "He has
sinned, but I paid for that sin on
Calvary, enduring the full
penalty and thereon the mercy
seat is my blood to prove it."

Oh, how precious is the blood
of the Lamb!

In I John 1:9, God is said to
be "...just to forgive us our
sins..." Then the reverse must
also be true; God would be un-
just not to forgive us our sins.
Since Jesus paid for them, we
must be forgiven or else God
would not be just.

Satan is defeated before God,
by the blood of the Lamb.

VII. A Caution On The Remedy..

Sometimes a medication will
have a caution on it. I remember
reading of a medication that was
harmful if a person ate dairy
products while taking it.

This remedy, the Blood of
Calvary's Lamb, is of no effect if
anything is mixed with it.

I remember talking to a
minister some time ago. He was
of the belief that a sinner was to
come in contact with the Blood
in baptism. I told him he was
mixing water with the blood.
Imagine diluting the precious
Blood of Jesus.

Others want to add their
works (of which baptism is a
work) as if to say that the blood
is not sufficient.

Some want to receive it
through an altar or mourner's
bench. They would desecrate
the Blood with these idols which
are no better than the idols of
the pagans.

It's the blood plus nothing,
minus nothing; listen:
"...through faith in his
blood..." (Romans 3:25).

TO THE LOST

You have been hearing about
the remedy for your condition.
Many will scoff and make light
of it, but listen to what the
mouth of the Lord has spoken,
"He that being often reproved
hardeneth his neck, shall sud-
denly be destroyed, and that
without remedy" (Proverbs 29:1).

There is a resurrected Christ
at the right hand of God and it is
written of Him, "...He is able
to save them to the uttermost
that come unto God by
him..." (Hebrews 7:25).

May God Bless You!

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accomplished this. Remember, after Peter had confessed, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God," the Lord Jesus said, "Flesh and blood have not revealed this unto thee, but my Father who is in Heaven." Again, in another place, we find, "He who confesses that Jesus is come in the flesh is of God."

As the lost sheep who has failed to follow the shepherd, you may seem to be having great difficulty just now. Your life may seem to be in shambles, but that is only from the human view. We can know that from God's perspective the situation is a little different. He has seen the end from the beginning. In His sovereignty, HE works out the details of our lives to His praise and our good.

Rejoice, my Brother, in this that God has accomplished in your heart. And if God had loved you enough to save you from your sins, and that eternally, you can rest assured that He is involved in every other detail of your life. It is no accident, then, that you are in Arlington. It is no accident that you and... have this relationship. It is no accident that... has been put in the company of one who is concerned about her eternal welfare.

Please, if you will, and perhaps with..., read Romans 8:29-30. If I may, I see in this the "foreknowledge" of God, the "predestination" of God, the "calling" of God, the "justification" of God, and, eventually, the "glorification" by God.

You appear to be concerned that God is not answering your prayers, and that... does not readily come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let me ask you this, were you down by the side of your bed and in tears praying that God would send you to... or send... to you? Can you not see, my Brother, that God is really "several jumps" ahead of you and even of...? In truth, God was working out some of the details of your life and some of the details in your life and... life when you were going along in your own selfish ways and doing your own selfish things.

Nevertheless, in His sovereign provision — His Providence, if I may — God was working in your lives when you had no regard whatever for God or for each other. Does this not tell you that you do not have a "handle," so to speak, on life? Does this not tell you something of God's love for both of you? Does this not tell you something of His care? Does this not give you some insight into His "concern" for both of you? How dare you, then, or how dare..., if you will, question God for not "answering" the prayers that you are praying now? Without any doubt, if God had answered the prayers that you have prayed in other days, it is quite probable that you would never have met... and... would never have met you.

Your plight, really, is like that of the rest of us; that is, we really do not know for what we should pray. During my beloved's last illness, the situation was so absolutely desperate at times, and the pain was so impossible that she actually prayed that she might die and requested that I join her in this prayer. Needless to say, I could not do so for my prayer was simply that the Lord's will be done, and that I might have her as long as possible. Then one morning, after such a request... sometime

between 2:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m.... I prayed in faith and in love and in hope.

She raised her head from her pillow, though she had been absolutely helpless for sometime, and said, "I have been wrong to pray that I might die haven't I?" I did not respond. In a moment, however, she went on, "I'll not do that anymore"! She kept that promise, faithful unto death, if you will!

So, it is, you and... really do not know for what you should pray. It may be, too, that you really do not know your own minds. As you look back on your lives in recent months, you will be able to realize that you did nothing, really, to bring you to that first meeting. When all is said and done, it was God who was working it all out far beyond the minds of mortals to comprehend or to understand. Why not ask Him, then, what His will for your lives may be? Why not determine in your own hearts to wait on the Lord and the working out of His Will in patience?

One of the things which seems to be troubling both of you is your desire to find wisdom or truth or an "answer" in the words of men and by means of men. The Psychic, doubtless, has comprehended something of your desperation and thus promises an answer when you come up with the \$1,500.00. As a host of religious charlatans who pray on the desperations of those who are ignorant of the Scriptures, this Psychic has supposed that you are "a ripe plum" of financial gain which she feels is "ready to pick"!

You are not the first to be deluded by Satan in such an hour. You may remember that Pilate, in another day, stood in the very presence of Truth and that eternal and inquired, "What is truth?" Can it be that you have a similar impatience and a similar blindness? Many men, in all ages, and in many similar situations, have asked a similar question.

It is sad that your fleshly plight is such that you have resorted to psychiatrists, psychics, and even false preachers for truth. Believe me, my Brother, both "good men" and "bad men" will lead you astray. Only Jesus is truth, has truth, and speaks truth without qualifications and without equivocation. God explains in very clear language, "Men are always liars." In His Grace, however, He explains further, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man comes to the Father but by me." In another place, we read, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The Apostle had a good word in this direction when He advised that the Bereans were wiser than those in Thessalonica because they "searched the Scriptures" to determine whether what he spoke was the truth. I recommend such an approach to you and to the one you love, even...!

Even as I, you can see the desperate condition of the minds of mortal men. Multiplied millions will listen to the Pope or some famed priest or preacher, so-called, and suppose that such has some special access to truth. Other millions will turn to the rather persuasive words of denominational leaders and suppose that they have some access to truth not available to others.

As your mother may have noted, I am a Baptist and that by conviction, but I assure you that being Baptist has nothing whatever to do with my salvation. I believe that the Apostles



The Baptist Examiner

BIBLE STUDY LESSON

By WILLARD PYLE

Pastor — Naples Park Baptist Church of Naples Park, Florida

Psalm 26:6-12

Intro: In order for the saints to worship God in spirit and in truth, they must be a separate people. This involves both the heart and the hands. They must separate themselves from wicked thoughts and wicked actions, which means to separate themselves from the congregations of evil speakers and evil doers; and be separated unto the habitation of God and the Word of God. In this, David serves as a perfect example.

VERSE 6

"I will." In regeneration God works in us "both to will and to do of His good pleasure," so salvation is not of the will of the flesh, but of God (John 1:13). God makes us willing in the day of His power (Ps. 110:3). We are made willing to go to the Father in repentance and faith (Luke 15:18). Both our attitude and actions are changed (Acts 9:6).

"Wash mine hands in innocency." Fallen man by nature and by practice has wicked hands (Acts 2:23). He cannot wash his hands in innocency until he has had a complete bath (John 13:10). Spiritually, this can only be accomplished through the blood of Christ (Rev. 1:5). The priests that ministered in the tabernacle had to have a complete bath (Ex. 29:4); and then each time they entered the tabernacle to minister, they had to wash their hands and feet, which signified the removal of daily pollution. This means, or symbolizes that our sins are removed forever and we stand justified before God. In our context in this passage, David washed his hands in innocency by removing himself from the wicked and not partaking in their evil deeds. Contrast the actions of Pilate.

"So will I compass Thine altar, O Lord." In order to both see God's altar in its proper light, and to minister acceptably, the Christian must not be unequally yoked with unbelievers or false religionists.

were Baptists, in truth, but their being Baptists had nothing whatever to do with their salvation. Tragically, there are some denominationalists who suppose that unless a person is a member of their group they cannot be saved. Needless to say, all such are liars, and the truth is not in them!

Salvation is in Christ!

It is in Him, Him alone!

Whether a man be a "good man" or a "bad man" really is of no consequence with respect to salvation for "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Too, "He that has offended in one point is guilty of all," and God makes it rather clear that "If we say that we have no sin, the truth is not in us." The only thing of importance, then, is whether one knows the Lord Jesus Christ — the One "in whom is no guile" — in saving faith! "Whom say ye that I am?" is the question that separates all men into two groups; namely, those who go to Heaven and those who go to hell!

During my beloved's last illness, we had occasion to work

The closer we are to God's Altar (which for us is Christ), the farther we will be from the altars of this world. This will help us to "sin not," but if we do sin, we can go to the brazen laver and then be ready to compass God's Altar again (I John 2:1).

BIBLE VERSE



PSALM 145:18

The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

VERSE 7

"That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all Thy wondrous works." Herein lies the reason for David's desire to wash his hands in innocency. He ever sought to exalt and magnify God before others. Keep in mind, dirty hands handling clean vessels will surely be noticed by others, and will cause them to not want to eat. The perfect pattern for the child of God is to be filled with the Spirit; which results in not fulfilling the lusts of the flesh (Gal. 5:16), and in telling forth the wonderful works of God (Acts 2:11). Notice all of the works of God are to be told.

VERSE 8

"Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy house." The house of God occupied a special place in the life of David. He loved it above all other houses. He was glad to attend its services (Psa. 122:1). He went there to see the beauty, or glory of the Lord (Ps. 27:4). The zeal of God's house had eaten him up (John 2:17). We must ever be on guard not to leave our first love (Rev. 2:4).

with nurses who had a variety of religious backgrounds. Needless to say, most of them had great difficulty understanding how she could face death with confidence. They found it most unusual that she who had only a few days or weeks, at most, was concerned only for their eternal welfare, praying with them, witnessing to them from the Word, smiling beautifully that her hope was assured and that her journey to glory was planned already.

Only two had really never sat long enough or quietly to hear or to read or to pray. Yet, God, in His sovereign provision, arranged that one of these should be here for an hour or so before my beloved took her last quiet breath. During these moments, and at the request of my eldest son, she read one of my beloved's favored passages, the last two chapters of First John. In the discussion which ensued, we dealt in great depth with salvation and assurance; truths which apparently were foreign to her thinking. I spoke at considerable length regarding "The

(Continued on Page 4 Column 4)

"And the place where Thine honor dwelleth." Yes, God's glory fills His House (II Chron. 5:13; Acts 2:1-4). Sad to say, this is not true of all professing churches. God's honor is associated with His Word and His works. If a church is not built according to His Word, or if it is not performing His works, it is not the place where God's honor dwells.

VERSE 9

"Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men." David did not want to be gathered with sinners in this life nor in the life to come. The counter-part of this is to be gathered with the saints in the church and in the air (Acts 2:41; I Thess. 4:16, 17; II Thess. 2:1).

VERSE 10

"In whose hands is mischief." This is the opposite of hands of innocency. The sinner is ever seeking a way to trick or to trap the unsuspecting. They truly practice deceit with both hands. However, God will discover their deceit, and they shall reap what they sow.

"And their right hand is full of bribes." They feel they can ever buy off judges and jury, regardless of the awfulness of their crimes. They sin and make sinners to cover up their sin.

VERSE 11

"But as for me." Regardless of others, even those closest to him, David was determined not to be swayed. Joshua had the same intensity about spiritual matters (Joshua 24:15). This is true of Paul (Acts 20:24). Can it be said of us?

"I will walk in mine integrity." After washing, (Vs. 6) David was ready for a godly walk. He would not lower his principles which he had learned from God's Word (Ps. 119:11). As we have seen before, the Bible has much to say about our walk, both before and after salvation.

"Redeem me, and be merciful unto me." David had been made to suffer because of his determination to live according to God's Word; and he longs for the day God will fulfill His promise to him. This should ever be our desire; for our redemption draweth nigh (Luke 21:28).

VERSE 12

"My foot standeth in an even place." David had built his house on a solid foundation which was a sure footing to his feet. David didn't have to worry about tripping, because he was on an even plain.

"In the congregations will I bless the Lord." He wanted to have, and looked forward to having, the privilege to sing God's praises before the saints. This is true of the Greater than David also (Heb. 2:12).

Conclusion: We have here the basis for a real revival; therefore, may we take heed.

(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 17400 Mo. Rd., South East, Fort Myers, Fla. 33908).

More people are ready to shrink from sinners than they are from sin.

The Baptist Examiner Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

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

Should a layman who has the opportunity to preach, do so, or not? I don't mean personal witnessing, but serving as a pastor of the church.

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"And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God" (Heb. 5:4).

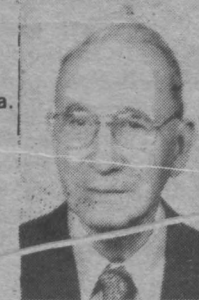
I am not overly fond of the terms laymen and clergy. But I think we all know what is meant by these terms and so we will not quibble over terminology. There are those who are called of God to the ministry. There are those who are not so called.

I believe very strongly in a call of God to be a preacher. I believe that God makes this call known to those whom He so calls. I believe a man should know that he has been called to preach by God before he enters into such an office. I believe the Bible is very clear on this, and that Baptist people have historically stood strongly for this truth.

I understand by the word layman a saved person who has not been called by God to preach. Now, it is true that every saved person should be a witness for God. Acts 8:4 refers to this as preaching the Word. There is a sense in which every saved person should be a preacher of the Word. He should witness to others of the saving grace of God and of other truths of the Word. But this is different from publicly preaching the Word, and very different from taking the office of pastor.

I do believe that, in the absence of a pastor, it would be proper for some male member of the church to conduct the services and to bring a message from God's Word to the congregation. But, by no means, should a layman ever take the office of pastor in a church. This office is reserved unto those who have a special call from God to preach His Word. Any man not called of God to preach, would be as out of place pastoring a church as a fish out of water. He would be usurping a position, and acting contrary to the Bible.

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LAYMAN,
TEACHER
and
WRITER

Yes, upon the church's recognition of such ability in a lay member, it should encourage him by giving him such an opportunity to so minister, but not as pastor.

And, then, if satisfied, the

church may license him for the ministry, until later, when they are ready to call a conference of ministers of other churches of like faith and order for his ordination. It is then that he is in a position to serve as a pastor, if so called by a church.

However, some prospective ministers are so ordained without being first licensed by a local church, before being called to pastor a church.

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I do not particularly care for the term "layman." I much prefer the term brother, rather than "layman." The term layman has its roots in the cult or sect of the Nicolaitanes (Rev. 2:6 & 15), the deeds of which God says, "I also hate." The doctrine of the Nicolaitanes is still seen in Roman Catholicism, where the people are divided into Clergy and laity. While there is a distinction between the pastor and his people, there is no basis in Scripture for such an hierarchy as Romanism has created.

I presume the brother referred to in the question has been called of God into the gospel ministry, for a Divine call to the gospel ministry must be antecedent to the pastoral call of a church. God's call of a man to the ministry does not in itself qualify him for the pastorate of a church. There is usually a time of testing and proving which goes before, and which is necessary to meet the qualifications set down by Paul in I Timothy 3 and Titus 2. This does not mean that the man who has been called of God to the ministry must be formally ordained by the church before he can pastor, but a church who has an unordained man qualifiedly serving as their pastor should call for his ordination, and thereby publicly own or declare God's gift of a pastor unto them.

Every man whom God has called to the ministry, whether ordained or not should with discretion seize every opportunity to preach, for this in the main, is the business to which God has called him, and if he can preach without bringing reproach on Christ or the Lord's church, let him preach.

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A layman whom God has given the ability to speak and has studied the Word of God so that he might rightly divide the Word of truth, should by all means preach or teach wherever the opportunity arises. As to a layman being a pastor of a church is another matter. He may "fill in" for the pastor when the pastor is unable to perform his duties, but for him to become a pastor would not be according to the Scripture.

In a study concerning pastors, we see that God places pastors in churches, "For He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers" (Eph. 4:12).

As pastors are to guide as well feed the flock, this service was given to the elders of the church, for we see that Paul said to the elders of the church at Ephesus, "Take heed therefore, unto yourselves, and to all the flock over which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28). Also, Peter told the elders to "Feed the flock" (I Peter 5:2).

Now in Titus 1:5 we see that elders are to be ordained, "set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee." From a study of the qualifications for a bishop given in Titus 1:6-9 and I Timothy 3:1-7, we see that a bishop is the same as an elder.

From these Scriptures we see that the Pastor of a church is one chosen and placed there by God. We also see that pastors are elders who have special qualifications and are ordained, therefore, a layman (an unordained man) would not meet the requirements for a pastor.

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You actually are asking two questions: (1) Can they preach? and (2) Should they serve as pastor?

I assume when you use the term layman that you are referring to a man who is a member of the church. If such a man has a burden to go out and present a message of hope to others, there is nothing wrong with it. Many a godly man who was not called into the ministry have preached

and preached good messages.

Stephen was a deacon in the church at Jerusalem and he preached. "And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people" (Acts 6:8). As a result of his preaching, he was stoned to death (see Acts 7:54-69). Philip, another deacon, was a preacher. "Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them" (Acts 8:5). He was later referred to as Philip the evangelist (Acts 21:8).

We are also told that the church at Jerusalem was scattered abroad. "...and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles" (Acts 8:1). You will see that the apostles stayed in Jerusalem to keep the church going there and the members went abroad preaching. However, we also see that when a group of people are saved, then the church sends a preacher to organize the church and teach. "Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was at Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch" (Acts 11:22).

No layman should attempt to pastor a church. He may preach for them if they are without a pastor, but only until the church can call a God-called minister. The Bishop (or pastor) has special qualifications as given in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:7-11. "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers" (Eph. 4:11).

LOVING

(Continued from Page 3)

Theme of All Scripture" which has been published.

Then, within the Providence of God, this one left to get her children from school, and the other nurse was here to be with us until the end. Though one does not plan such final details, after my son had felt the life depart, and I placed my hand on her cooling brow, it was a time of rejoicing and thanksgiving that my beloved was in the presence of Jesus, loved ones who have gone before, and the saints of all ages. This one whose religion is anti-Christ and cultic was broken, moved and in tears.

My beloved and our God had effected in the final moments of her life on earth the testimony which she had not been able to frame in words in other hours. It was a climactic moment of true victory of faith by the Word of God beyond anything that I have ever known. I doubt not that this witness which was effected at the very moment of my beloved's death will resound eternally to the praise of the Lord Jesus Christ, our crucified, buried, and resurrected Savior.

Having observed my beloved in her dealing with our lads as they grew, and having had a mother who walked in faith all the days in which I knew her, I find it difficult to understand that the one you love can supposedly "detest" religion because her Father was a Pentecostal and her Mother was a Baptist. Even so, however, what does such "hatred" accomplish? One may even hate the religious leaders of our day, and even though they may be anti-Christ, of what value is

such animosity? None, in truth, if I may! One may be any sort of a denominationalist and head straight for hell.

Though some may suppose that salvation is in religion or in some of the religions of men, in truth salvation is not in denominationalism. We can never repeat too often, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no man comes to the Father but by me"! It makes little difference what "religious handle" a man or woman may wear, anyone who knows anything at all about the Word of God, and anyone who has even a minimal understanding of the Word of God should be able to realize that one's denomination has nothing whatever to do with his salvation.

There was religion when Jesus was upon the earth, but it was the religionists — the denominationalists, if you please — who put Him on the cross. It was the religionists — the denominationalists, if you please — who cried, "Crucify Him, crucify Him"! The same thing is true today. Our Lord commands that we "go to Him without the gate, bearing His reproach," but religious men despise such truth and such sacrifice. Instead — and there is no exception — religionists and denominationalists "Crucify Christ afresh, and put Him to an open shame."

Therefore, my Brother, I do not recommend religion to you. I do not even recommend denominationalism to you. There are Baptists who are as utterly doomed as blaspheming Romans. There are Pentecostals who are as finally in the control of Satan as the most desperately — anti-Christ Presbyterians. I recommend the Lord Jesus Christ, and Him alone, to you. Similarly, I do not recommend the wisdom of men to you. Rather, I recommend to you the Word of God; herein is truth and that eternal; herein is wisdom, and that which cannot be gainsaid or denied.

If you can wait upon the Lord with respect to his care for you and for..., a new fullness and new freedom will come into your lives. If you can trust the Lord to accomplish His purposes in your lives, a new peace will be yours. You are truly saved, and God by His Word can accomplish His purposes in your life. If the one whom you love is truly one of the elect of God, you may be assured that she will believe, and then she, too, will be able to see the accomplishment of God's purposes in her life.

Believing as I do, I know that fruitfulness and fulfillment can be ours, in the Lord Jesus Christ, only as we "have boldness... by the blood of Jesus," "draw near with true hearts," "hold fast the profession of our faith," "consider one another... unto love," and "forsake not the assembling of ourselves together." It may take a bit of effort, but I believe you can find a place where men in assembly believe the Word, follow the ordinances of immersion and the Lord's Supper in a Scriptural manner, are assured of the eternal security of the believers, are those who believe in a Sovereign, Omniscient, and Omnipotent God, and who have no headquarters this side of Heaven. Herein you will find men who preach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as "the Power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

(Continued on Page 5 Column 1)

LOVING

(Continued from Page 4)

By now, perhaps, you, and... as well, can know that it is my conviction that you can find no truth on the "couch" of a psychiatrist. Such a one must ever make his appeal to the flesh and not to faith! Similarly, you will never find truth in the "counsel" of any psychic.

Both come from a perspective which is anti-Christ!

God proclaims, "If they speak not according to this word (the Word of God) it is because there is no truth in them," and all such must despise the Word of God. Psychiatrists or Psychologists, by whatever names they may be known, have committed themselves to that evil, anti-Christ man by the name of Freud or someone of his co-conspirators against Christ, whether of another generation or of this. Therefore, they are incapable of speaking truth for those who would have hope in this life or hope for eternity. And Psychics — without exception — are abject servants of Satan and promoters of a demonism which was spawned in the being of him who said, "Yea, hath God said?"

If you would know "the peace that passes understanding," wait upon the Lord and turn ever and anew in faith to His Holy, Infallible, Im-mutable, and Eternal Word. If you would know the victory in your own personal life and have some part in ensuring victory unto salvation eternal in the life of the one you love and perhaps in the lives of others, then realize that "there is none righteous, no not one," but that we can have hope in Him who is "our righteousness." When we "know the truth," we need not be enslaved to men or to the devices of men for "the truth will make us free."

Herein is truth you need!

Herein is truth I need!

Herein is truth all need!

Sovereignly, God, in His grace, has reached into your heart and into mine and enabled us to see Jesus dying for our sins on the cross at Calvary. Herein, God has enabled us to know that He has been raised from the dead. Herein, God demonstrated His Love beyond compare. Herein, men have shown their hatred for God and for His Word and way of salvation.

It is no marvel, then, that God has declared, "Their throat is an open sepulchre, with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips... their feet are swift to shed blood; destruction and misery are in their ways; the way of peace they have not known; there is no fear of God before their eyes." Needless to say, all such despise "The righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe..."

In our humanity, we turn from the Lord!

In our humanity, we turn, from His Word!

God, in His grace, however, will enable us to remember that Jesus said, "I came not to do mine own will but the will of Him who sent me." Again, in another place, we hear, "Not my will, but thine be done."

My Brother, "you are bought with a price," even "the blood of Jesus." Therefore, as a child of God, you have a responsibility toward our heavenly Father that should supersede every other desire.

Kill that sin in your heart or it may become your monster.

Herein is your love of the Lord evidenced. And herein is the promise of victory in your own personal life effected for time and for eternity.

God will use His Word to encourage your heart, increase your faith, provide greater patience, and give you the grace to abide in the Word and the Will of God. Herein will be your victory of faith as you walk in the flesh, assurance of victory eternal.

Yours to our God's praise,
Ray

DRINK

(Continued from Page 1)

have it published in as many church papers and tracts as possible.

The Lord's people in all states, write your United States Senator and Representative and remind them that, in this land, public servants are elected by the people, to serve the people, by carrying out their wishes; that public servants are to champion the rights of the people who elect them; and that public servants are to act as mouth-pieces, for right, for the people who elect them; call upon these elected public servants in the national government; to join in this movement for national prohibition; to use their influence for this movement; to make as many speeches as possible, for the people to hear, (some over the air), outlining in detail the curse of legalized strong-drink; to condition the people of the nation for voting and showing the evidence of their repentance at the next presidential election; by which time the United States Congressman can have done the necessary, in selecting a man to run for president; (it may be the present Chief Executive or it may be some other man.) Pray the Lord to lead in the selection of a ticket, giving the nation an opportunity to vote to end the manufacture and sale of strong drink and restore national prohibition.

We live in a land which our God has long blessed. God in His wisdom has seen fit to give us a democratic form of government. God rules in the affairs of men of earth and sets up who he will and puts down whom He will. Here, ours is a government — of the people, by the people, and for the people. It is a government wherein the people have the voice. That is, they are to make known their desires and their approval or disapproval of government actions. They are to make known their wishes to their elected public servants. They may convey their wishes to their elected public servants, by word of mouth, by letters, by representatives, and so on, as is honorable. We, God's people as individuals and citizens of their country are to use their voice, as a God-given privilege and opportunity to witness, as their God calls for national repentance. God commands universal repentance. "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent" (Acts 17:30). God's people are His spokesmen, through which God preaches repentance.

Let, us, walking as God's children, and citizens of this nation, make known to those, our elected public servants and all the nation, the sin of the nation, in legalizing strong drink, and in keeping it legalized.

Let our God use us as his means of communication, as God calls the people of the nation to repentance. Otherwise,

they will never be called to repentance. God will not speak to them from Heaven. If we do not make known to our Senators and Representatives in the national capitol, how shall they hear and know? They will not, but will have to use their own judgment in all matters. We must convey to them our wishes. Our wishes are God's will — that the people of the nation come to repentance. Let us do the will of the Lord, and our duty as citizens of the nation. Otherwise, let us not grumble and find fault with how things go.

Since ours is a government of us, by us, and for us, then we are our government as individual citizens. There can be no evasion at this point. Therefore, let us rise up, in the name of our God and right; and submit ourselves to God and as God uses us, He will drive strong-drink from its high throne of legalization and restore national prohibition in the land. God is against strong-drink, but His people must do His Word; and against wrong. Then God will bless this land as in the other days; fear, suspicion, and the uneasiness will cease to stalk the land and peace will reign as God wills, for God will forgive and bless us.

We the Lord's people, may be delivered from the presence of the curse of legalized strong-drink; the nation may be delivered from strong-drink's desolation. Our will, is God's will — that the people of the nation come to repentance. It is the responsibility of God's children to submit to God and let God use them in calling the people of America to repentance. The people may repent and they may not repent. It is the people's responsibility to do the repenting. If they repent, well. If not, God's children will have been God's witnesses, who warned the people that did not take heed; they will be clear before God. If they repent, prohibition will always be a sign that God's children submitted themselves to the Lord and by them God has called the people of the nation to repentance. We can do nothing of ourselves. We are only instruments in God's hand. Now is the time for all of God's children to pray; pray for the people of America; pray for our elected public servants, pray God to call them all to repentance.

Every individual who fears God and believes in Christ the Risen and ever-living Lord, who is saved, should write two individual letters and mail one to your United States Senator and the other to your Representative in Washington, D.C. Your elected public servants will be glad to hear from you and have you express your wishes to them.

HOW

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profitable; there is none that doeth good, no not one" (Romans 3:10-12).

"Men loved darkness (sin) rather than light (Christ)" (John 3:19).

"There is no fear of God before their eyes" (Romans 3:18).

These Scriptures teach us that not only are all sinners guilty before the Almighty God, but that they actually love sin and have no fear of God who says:

"The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4).

"The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

"It is a fearful thing to fall

BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US

Because the Father first loved us,
He chose his own to be saved;
Only Sovereign work would suffice,
For all mankind is depraved.

It took a perfect Sacrifice
To cover sin of His own;
Thus God did send His son in flesh,
Here such wondrous love was shown.

He opens our ears which are deaf,
To hear His most holy call.
Any born could not hear His Word,
Ever since the Garden fall.

By His grace He opens our eyes
That we see Him, King of kings;
Power omniscient in all ways,
Praise to His Name shall we sing.

He gives us minds to understand
All wondrous truths of His Word;
To lead us, guide us, help us grow,
Feed our souls each time it's heard.

By His Spirit we live our lives,
A strength when storms of light come;
Comfort and assurance each day
To stand till he calls us home.

These gifts lie not within oneself,
For man's flesh is only dust;
They came from God in His own time,
Yes, because He first loved us.

Lynda Edwards
Charlotte, N.C.

into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:31).

"Who will render to every man according to his deeds" (Romans 2:6).

"Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul, but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in Hell" (Matthew 10:28).

Then, dear reader, if you are not a Christian, not saved, you need to be saved, because no one, no, not one, is fit for Heaven until he is saved. You love sin more than righteousness; you love yourself more than God, you love the things of this world more than Heaven. You must be born again (John 3:7). Christ must give you a new nature, a new love, and a new life.

Having seen from the Bible why people need to be saved we now wish to look into God's Word and find out what God says will save; but first, it might be helpful to notice just a few—
THINGS WHICH WON'T SAVE

(1) Being baptized won't save. The ordinance of baptism is a beautiful thing in its place and the Lord has commanded it. But the question is, "On whom has the Lord commanded it?" Let us answer our question from the Bible. In Acts 2:41, we read, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized." This verse clearly teaches that the people were saved before baptism, for all who have received His (God's) Word are "born again...by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever" (I Peter 1:24). So, baptism is for saved people only.

(2) Neither will joining the church save. For in Acts 2:47, we read, "And the Lord added to them (the church) day by day those that were being saved." Only saved people then are to be added to the membership of the church. If you are saved you should join the church, but not until you are saved.

(3) Neither will doing the best you can, save. Because, you see, "We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy

raggs" (Isaiah 64:6).

(4) Neither will keeping the commandments save. The Scriptures teach, "by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight; for by the law is the knowledge of sin" (Romans 3:20).

There are a great many things we could name that will not save, but let the Bible tell us how people are saved and that will take care of every false way.

HOW TO BE SAVED

The Bible says that there is but one way to be saved.

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

There is a reason why Jesus and He only is the way to be saved. Sin is what keeps men out of Heaven and sends them to Hell, and "Christ died for our sins" (I Cor. 15:3). Christ suffered the punishment due to us because of our sins. The people's sins for whom Christ suffered the punishment are all those who will trust His sacrifice as their payment for sin. He is their Saviour.

Only Christ can pay your sin-debt, which is death. He has died. Salvation, becoming a Christian, going to Heaven, is in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. Read carefully the following passages from God's Word:

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under Heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

"To him gave all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins" (Acts 10:43). "By him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses" (Acts 13:39).

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:14).

Friend, whether you are sav-

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ed or lost depends upon your relationship with Christ. Salvation depends on what He has done and not what you or someone else has done or can do.

It is all of God's grace, which is great unmerited favor.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:18).

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation (satisfaction to the law) for our sins" (1 John 4:10).

Sinner friend, God invites you to Christ. Your eternal destiny depends on your relationship to Him: In John 3:36, we read,

"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 in him."

—From an old Tract.

LATER

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witnesses (Rev. 11:3) and the career of the beast (Rev. 13:5).

"And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth" (Rev. 11:3).

"And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months" (Rev. 13:5).

The two witnesses are to prophesy "a thousand two hundred and threescore days," or about 3½ years; then the Beast is to kill them (Rev. 11:7). The Beast will then continue his reign for "forty and two months," or 3½ years.

These seven combined years agree with the one week (seven years) that is yet appointed to Israel. This fact is made clear by the following verse:

"And he (that is, the false prince) shall confirm the covenant with many (Israel) for one week; and in the midst of the week (3½ years) he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abomination he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate" (Daniel 9:27).

The pronoun "he" in the above verse refers to the Antichrist. This future ruler of the western world will make a seven-year pact with Israel. He will honor the pact for 3½ years, during which time the Jews will be unified nationally by a strong religion. The Antichrist, however, after 3½ years, will suddenly turn on Israel and demand an immediate end to their worship. He, in fact, will require them to worship an image of himself. This will bring Israel to the "abomination of desolation" spoken of in Matthew 24:15.

The extent of the desolation is defined in Revelation 12:13-17: "And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the

earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. And to the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

The picture of a flood of water coming from the serpent's mouth, in an effort to drown the woman (Israel), is a symbol of an all-out effort by Satan to exterminate Israel. Satan's efforts will result in the death of two-thirds of all Israel.

"And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein" (Zech. 13:8).

This verse informs us that two-thirds of Israel shall die, but Zechariah 13:9 informs us that the remaining one-third shall be saved:

"And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is My people; and they shall say, The Lord is my God" (Zech. 13:9).

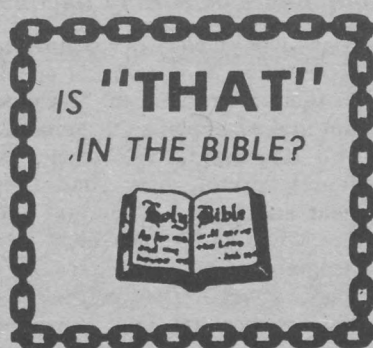
We have, in Revelation 13, a further description of Satan's efforts to destroy Israel. His efforts, in this chapter, are put forth by way of the Antichrist and the false prophet. The first Beast of Revelation 13 symbolizes the Antichrist — the Beast — who will rise up out of the sea — the Beast who will bear a resemblance to a leopard, bear and lion. This western ruler will have world dominion and bring terrible persecution upon all who refuse to worship his image.

"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8).

The Antichrist will be assisted by the false prophet — the second Beast in Revelation 13. The work of this second Beast will be to deceive by way of many miracles. He will also intensify the persecution of those who refuse to worship the Antichrist.

"And he hath power to give life unto the image of the Beast, that the image of the Beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the Beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and enslaved, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads, and that no man might buy or sell, except he that had the mark, or the name of the Beast, or the number of his name" (Rev. 13:15-17).

It becomes very obvious that the tribulation will be a time when Satan will vent his dreadful wrath upon Israel. It will also be a time when God shall



QUESTION:—Who had ten housekeepers and put them all in prison for life?

ANSWER:—David. Second Samuel 20:3 — "And David came to his house at Jerusalem; and the king took the ten women his concubines, whom he had left to keep the house, and put them in ward, and fed them, but went not in unto them. So they were shut up unto the day of their death, living in widowhood." The reason for his doing so may be found in chapter 16:20-23.

pour His terrible wrath as is shown by the following Scriptures:

"Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate, and He shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible" (Isaiah 13:9-11).

Our Father is going to send dreadful plagues upon this earth. The result being that the population of the earth will be greatly reduced. The population, in fact, under the fourth seal (Rev. 6:7, 8), will be reduced by about one-fourth. This reduction, on the basis of our present population, will mean that about seven hundred fifty million people will die. The judgment of the sixth trumpet (Rev. 9:13-21) will destroy one-third of those who will escape the earlier plagues.

Immediately after the tribulation begins, Russia and many nations with her will come down against Israel. They, however, are to be soundly defeated because of the intervention of the Almighty Himself. He, in fact, will cause hail, fire and brimstone to fall upon those who will attack Israel.

I place this battle at the beginning of the tribulation rather than before it, because of the fact that God will fight for Israel as He did in His dealings with them during the sixty-nine weeks that are already past. It stands to reason that this battle will occur during Daniel's seventeenth week. Furthermore, if we contend that this battle must occur before the tribulation, then we will be looking for the battle rather than the return of our Lord.

There are actually three more great battles which are to be fought. The first of these battles is described in Ezekiel thirty-eight and thirty-nine. This first end-time battle will involve the invasion of Palestine by a group of nations from the north. The second end-time battle will involve all nations — nations who will gather specifically against Jerusalem. The battle will be called Armageddon. The third and last battle is described in

Revelation 20:7-10. This battle is to occur at the end of the millennium when Satan is released for a short season.

We know from the following Scriptures that there is to be an invasion of Palestine in the "latter days."

"Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord God; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it? And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army: and thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes... And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, and overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the Lord" (Ezekiel 38:14-16, 22, 23).

The invasion of Palestine, according to the above verses is to come from the north of Palestine, during a time when Israel is dwelling safely. A world map will show that Russia is the farthest north from Palestine. Russia, however, will not be alone when she comes against God's Israel. She, according to Ezekiel 38:15, will have "many peoples" with her.

We are all aware of the fact that Russia is deeply involved in the middle-East at the present time. She, in fact, supplied most of the brain power and war materials of the war that is now smoldering. I, in fact, have read that Soviet advisory officers have penetrated the entire Egyptian army, even down to the battalion level. This is the price Egypt was required to pay for the large arms shipments from Russia. Russia, in fact, is in Egypt as we were in Vietnam; that is, we supplied the money, materials and many men. We may safely say, then, that the invasion of Palestine will be Russia's war even though many other nations will come with her.

"And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts..." (Ezek. 38:15).

North, in the Bible, means north of Palestine. Palestine, in fact, in the Scriptures, is the center of the earth. The Mediterranean which borders Palestine, means — "middle of the earth."

The names of the countries that will attack Israel are given in the following verses:

"And the Word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: and I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: Persia, Ethiopia, and

Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: Gomer and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee" (Ezekiel 38:1-6).

Gog, in verse two (above), is the symbolic name of the man who will be commander of the northern confederacy of nations. "Magog" is the symbolic name of Gog's people and the land over which Gog shall rule. The new Schaff Herzog Encyclopedia of religious knowledge says regarding "Magog":

"A stricter geographical location would place Magog's dwelling between Armenia and Media, perhaps on the shores of the Araxes. But the people seem to have extended farther north across the Caucasus, filling there the extreme northern horizon of the Hebrews."

A close look at a world map will show the above location to be that of present day Russia.

The name "Meshech" in verse two is an ancient tribal name from Moscow. Some believe "Meshech" is related to Moschi, a people who inhabited part of the country between the Black and Caspian seas. The people of Moschi were, at a later date, called Muscovites from which the name Moscow is derived.

The name "Tubal" is often regarded as an ancient tribal name from which the former eastern capitol of Russia, Tobolsk, is derived. Gesenius, in his Hebrew lexicon, contends that Meshech and Tubal are related to present-day Moscow and Tobolsk.

"Persia" is present day Iran. Cush and Put cannot be identified with absolute certainty, but they are probable nations that are adjacent to Iran. Jewish historians contend that "Gomer" is present-day Germany, at least the eastern part. "Togarmah" is usually identified as Turkey.

The above nations and many others will join Russia in her invasion of Palestine.

When will Russia invade Israel? She, according to Ezekiel 38:11, will not strike until Israel feels no need of being on guard against her neighbors. This fact means that some great world power will guarantee protection to Israel to the extent that she will see no need of preparing for war. The United Nations is probably the power that will guarantee protection to Israel. The ground work for such protection is now being laid.

Russia, then, will not invade Israel until Israel feels that all is well and that there is no need to fear. It will be at this time that Russia and her allies will strike.

"And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwallled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates" (Ezek. 38:11).

Will Russia and her allies succeed in their attack? The answer is given in the following passages:

"For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; so that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the

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steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground. And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord God: every man's sword shall be against his brother. And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an over flowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone" (Ezekiel 38:19-22).

"Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: and I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel" (Ezek. 39: 1, 2).

Russia and her allies, according to the above verses, will be severely defeated. Russian soldiers, in fact, will kill each other and deathly diseases, rain, hail and brimstone will also reduce the great army so that all but one sixth of the army will be destroyed. The defeated of this great army, according to Ezekiel 38:23, will have a world-wide effect:

"Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the Lord."

This great victory will also have a dynamic impact upon Israel as is shown from the following verse:

"So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel" (Ezekiel 39:7).

Russia's defeat will be a sign from God to His people Israel to the extent that vast numbers of Jews will return to the God of their fathers. The 144,000 sealed Jews and the two witnesses will be God's instruments in leading His people back to himself.

The defeat of Russia will also give the Antichrist unquestionable rule in the earth, for his armies (western federation of nations) will still be one unit, while the Russian army will be destroyed.

Let it be known and proclaimed that Russia and her allies are lining up now, even as God has informed us would take place.

"Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the Master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch" (Mark 13:35-37).

We have been speaking of that which is yet to come. There is more, however, that lies before us and that is the resurrection of the righteous and the wicked. The righteous will be raised to enjoy eternal bliss while the wicked will be raised and cast into eternal fire. These resurrections, however, will not occur at one and the same time. The redeemed, in fact, will be raised from the dead while the resurrection of the wicked will be a resurrection of the dead. The resurrection of the righteous, which is from the

Sin is a brat that nobody cares to have laid at his own door.

dead, is defined in the following passage:

"But they which shall be counted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection" (Luke 20:35, 36).

It is very obvious that the lost are not the "children" of this resurrection, since they are not "counted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead."

We, if we take 4 from 6, have 2 left. The same applies to the resurrection from the dead. The righteous are taken from the dead, and the dead (the redeemed are not considered as dead) remain in the realm of death.

Our Lord, according to Acts 17:31, Romans 1:4, I Cor. 15:20 and I Peter 1:3, came forth from the dead. It necessarily follows that our resurrection is from the dead, too, since we are in the first resurrection of which our Lord was the first-fruits.

"But now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first-fruits of them that slept" (I Cor. 15:20).

Our Lord, as the above verse clearly reveals, was resurrected out from among the dead. This same truth, therefore, is applicable to the believer. Paul, in Philippians 3:11, refers to this resurrection:

"If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection from the dead."

This verse, in the Greek, says, "If by any means I might attain unto the out resurrection which is from the dead."

These words by Paul would have no meaning if there was to be only a general resurrection. It is very obvious that he desired to be in a particular resurrection, namely, the resurrection from the dead. It is this resurrection that Paul refers to in I Thessalonians 4:14-18:

"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

These Scriptures leave no place for the resurrection of the lost. You will note that those who participate in this resurrection are those who "are asleep." We all know that only the redeemed are said to be "asleep." We all know that only the redeemed are said to be "asleep," and only the redeemed can call Jesus "Lord." The lost, according to Revelation 20:12, will be resurrected and stand before "God" their judge, but the redeemed will stand before their "Lord."

The righteous are to be in the "first resurrection" (Revelation 20:5, 6). It stands to reason that there is to be a second resurrection, since there is to be a "first resurrection" — a first resurrection which is from the dead while the second is of the dead. The second resurrec-

tion, or the resurrection of the dead, is described in Revelation 20:11-15:

"And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead (not those who are asleep), small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened, which is the book of life: and the dead (not the living) were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell (all of them) were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

It is to be carefully noted that "death and hades" are to be cast into the lake of fire. This statement can only mean that all of "death and hell" are to be cast into the lake of fire. It is obvious, therefore, that the righteous will not be there. We are not in this class, since the righteous are not considered as being dead, but only "asleep." The presence of the "book of life" also makes it obvious that the righteous will not be there, in view of the fact that the book of life will only reveal those who are not written therein. We are aware, however, that many differ with us because of that which is written in John 5:28, 29:

"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth: they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

We, in these verses, have the association of the righteous with the wicked. This association, however, does not prove that both will be resurrected together. It is not unusual in Scripture to find two events that are separated by a period of time, appearing in the same verse. We, in Isaiah 9:6 and 7, have an example of this fact:

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His Kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this."

Some of the truths in these passages have already been fulfilled and some are yet future, yet they all appear in the same verses.

We see, then, that John 5:28, 29 (above) do not teach a general resurrection. The word "hour" in verse 28 is to be interpreted as it is used in verse 25. Here the meaning is that the time is coming.

It is thought by some that Acts 24:15 refers to a general resurrection, but let it be remembered when we read this verse that Paul, the writer, believed in a resurrection from the dead and of the dead.

"And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be

a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust" (Acts 24:15).

We come now to the judgment of the living and of the dead. Let us note first of all that certain judgment is on its way. The following Scriptures make this fact very evident.

"And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment upon all..." (Jude 1:14, 15).

"And He shall judge the world in righteousness, He shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness" (Psalm 9:8).

"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil" (Eccl. 12:14).

"Because He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead" (Acts 17:31).

"But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ" (Romans 14:10).

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

The judgment of God that was vent upon His Son at Calvary is past, therefore, judgment for sin is past as far as the believer is concerned.

"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).

"There is, therefore, now no condemnation (judgment) to them who are in Christ Jesus..." (Romans 8:1).

Our sin debt was fully satisfied at Calvary. There is, however, a future judgment for believers. This future judgment, however, will not have to do with the penalty for sin, in view of the fact that our sin debt has been settled at the cross.

"Who His own self bore our sins in His body on the tree..." (I Peter 2:24).

The future judgment of believers, then, has to do with the works of believers.

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (II Cor. 5:10).

The time of judgment for believers is defined in I Corinthians 4:5:

"Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God."

Our Lord will "make manifest the counsels of the hearts" by inspecting our works. Every good work, of course, will result in the "praise of God." This inspection and praise, however, will not occur until the rapture.

"Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto them also that love His appearing" (II Tim. 4:8).

It is my firm conviction that all who are not members of New

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Testament Baptist Churches and faithful in these churches, will receive no rewards. These individuals will be saved, but "so as by fire."

"Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire" (I Cor. 3:12-15).

We, at the rapture, are scheduled to meet our Lord in the air. The words "to meet," as they are used in I Thessalonians 4:17, indicate a planned or scheduled meeting. We can be sure that the matter of the believer's works will be one of the first orders of business.

The result of this particular judgment will be that only faithful members of scriptural churches will compose the Lord's Bride — the chaste virgin.

We also have in Matthew 25:31-46 another judgment which is yet future. This particular judgment will involve the Gentile nations. We have, in Joel 3:1, 2, a reference to this judgment:

"For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall again bring the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, I will gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehosaphat, and will judge them there for My people and for My heritage, Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted My land."

It is obvious that these verses recorded by Joel refer to the same as that recorded in Matthew 25:32, since both refer to "all nations." The Greek word

(Continued on Page 8 Column 1)

TUNE IN TO THE CALL TO CALVARY

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LATER

(Continued from Page 7)

in the New Testament that is translated "nations" is ethnos. This word occurs 158 times and is rendered "Gentiles" on 92 occasions, "nation" or "nations" on 61 occasions and "heathen" on 5 occasions.

It is very significant to note that there is no resurrection referred to at this judgment — the judgment of nations. The reason for this is because the rapture will have already occurred seven years earlier. The wicked are to remain in their graves until after the millennium, therefore, they are not to be resurrected at this time either. Who, then, will compose these nations that are to be judged? The answer is that those involved in this judgment will compose three classes — sheep, goats, and brethren. The sheep and goats, however, are the only two classes that will be judged. These will be separated on the basis of how they have treated the "brethren" — the "brethren" being the 144,000 Jewish preachers who will preach during the great tribulation. The sheep will be those who are kind to the brethren even though their kindness will place them in grave danger. Their kindness, of course, will not be the basis of their salvation, but only the evidence of it. They, if they were not saved people, would not love the

brethren and show such love even to the point of death.

We see, then, that the judgment of nations is the judgment of Gentiles in the various nations. We can be sure that the reference is to individuals in the various nations, since the "goats" are to be cast into "everlasting fire" and the "sheep" are to enter into "life eternal."

The "sheep," that is, those who are kind to the brethren (144,000 Jewish preachers) will enter into the millennium from the tribulation with the "all Israel" that are to be saved from the tribulation.

"And it shall come to pass that every one that is left of all the nations which come against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of Hosts, and keep the feast of tabernacles" (Zech. 14:16).

"Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: in those days it shall come to pass that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you; for we have heard that God is with you" (Zech. 8:23).

We come now to the last judgment — the judgment of the wicked dead. This judgment is described in the following verses:

"And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and

heaven fled away, and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead small and great, stand before God, and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and hell delivered up the dead that were in them; and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:11-15).

This last judgment will occur at the end of the one thousand year reign of our Lord upon the earth. Our Lord, during this last judgment, will sit upon a great white throne. It will be from this throne that He will make a final settlement in His controversy with fallen man. It will be a time when the graves of all the wicked dead shall be opened and the wicked of all ages will receive their sentence. It will be a time when the dead "small and great" shall stand before Him. I hasten to point out, however, that the redeemed are never termed "small and great." They are all one in Christ, therefore, they will not be in this class.

Those who stand before the great white throne will be raised from the place of the dead, but not from the state of death. There, in fact, as we have stated previously, are to be two resurrections; one of these is "unto the resurrection of life," and the other is "unto the resurrection of damnation."

"And shall come forth: they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:29).

The sentence which will be imposed upon all who stand before the great white throne will be the second death.

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death" (Rev. 21:8).

"He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so come Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you all. Amen" (Rev. 22:20, 21).

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