

MISSIONARY

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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. 22

ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, JUNE 5, 1982

WHOLE NUMBER 2378

A TROUBLED OR TROUBLING MINISTRY

by Mike King
Toledo, Ohio

Read I Kings 18:17-18.

Ahab accused Elijah of being the troubler of Israel when God caused rain to cease for 3½ years; yet in truth Ahab and all like him are the real troublemakers of the land. A nation, a people or an individual is troubled when the commandments of God are forsaken. I have heard on occasion men spoken of as having a troubled ministry. It is such a judgment I desire to consider in this correspondence.

We are living in a time when men don't want to be involved in any issue with a note of controversy. Elijah was God's man; and as such he did not fear man's opinion nor regard man's thoughts. He was in the service of God, and God's message was the only concern in his ministry. I fear those who profess to be God's men today who are more concerned with what the neighbors think or how a stand on what the Scripture teaches

will affect their fellowship with their respective groups or cliques.

Should not the man of God



MIKE KING

take Peter's position and obey God rather than man? Where is the prophet today who will endure the reproach of Elijah? Where is the man who will bow to God's will and go to the place in the wilderness alone? How many today are satisfied to serve God in such a case as Elijah's?

It seems that those who are propagating religious teaching today are purposely avoiding that place where they and God are alone.

Observe all the fervor the modern day prophet generates to surround himself with cronies, devotees, or admirers. While fellowship is much to be desired and a valuable commodity, our generation has fallen into a trap well set by Satan. Fellowship with Christian brethren does not draw us near to God; but quite the opposite, it is our fellowship with the God of our salvation which brings about fellowship with the brethren.

Beloved preacher brother, James 5:17 informs us that Elijah was no different than we are today. He suffered despondency under the juniper bush. He knew ridicule from those who should have been his staunchest supporters. Yet, for all his problems, it was God's message he

(Continued on Page 6 Column 1)

"WHAT DOEST THOU HERE, ELIJAH?"

by Ron Boswell
Hagerstown, MD.

Read I Kings 19:9

By way of introduction to our text, we notice that God often asks questions. Of Adam God asked, "Where art thou?" (Gen. 3:9); of Eve God asked, "What is this that thou hast done?" (Gen. 3:13); and of Philip Christ asked, "Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" (John 6:5).

Three times in John 21 Christ asked Peter concerning his fishing business, "...lovest thou me more than these?"

and saw one of the deacons of the church sitting at a table drinking. Mr. Spurgeon went in and walked up behind the deacon and whispered, "What doest thou here, Elijah?" Then

he left. The man said later that the question had a deep effect upon him. He never again went in an ale house.

It is a great mercy that God

(Continued on Page 3 Column 1)

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon By Ray Waugh

PITEOUS PENTECOSTALS

Part I

Some 25 years ago and a little more, I prepared and delivered a message which I called, "The Perils of Pentecostalism." Two of my dear Christian and Baptist brethren felt that the message was needed. Thus, they published it in their church papers which were reaching several thousand beyond the local church. One of them decided further that the message should reach a few more thousand, so he published it in a small brochure and then advertised it in his paper at no cost to me. Thankfully, as I was to learn later, it was very informative for many Christian friends, and it literally shook some of the leading Pentecostals to the bottoms of their boots, as it were.

These were not "Charismatics"!

This still was Satan's dream!

This message had as a background some 25 years of rather consistent contact with

Pentecostal people from several parts of the country who were sometimes as flamboyant as Aimee Semple McPherson and as unsophisticated as "The Holy Rollers," as they have been called. At one time or another, I had experienced real first-hand knowledge of them. As all of those of this religious persuasion today, those, in those days, had their gimmicks and they used them as effectively as Satan would permit. We need to remember that he is sufficiently "wise" to realize that he must use care if he is going to maintain his influence in the lives of many Christians.

Before "The Great Depression," when I was just a lad, I had a particularly-informative experience in connection with one of the more flamboyant and sophisticated Pentecostal leaders. I had a rare opportunity to view a bizarre religious presentation, and the activities of some leading Pentecostal men of the time.

A dear neighbor by the name of Mr. Lehner — all of whose family is now deceased — whose wife was chronically ill and whose daughter in her early mid-years was crippled had been deluded by the Pentecostals of the time. He had been seduced by them to suppose that in time "faith healing" by the "Faith Healers" eventually would bring health and happiness to his little family. Needless to say, the very opposite occurred.

His life and his family were in shambles. He, nevertheless, ran the wheels off of his cumbersome Auburn Car, as it were, in his going to Pentecostal meetings. I learned later that he had spent most all that he made in supporting Pentecostal preachers and evangelists. As a result, his family never had enough to eat, and they never had the proper medical care. Obviously, the character of Pentecostal charlatans and

(Continued on Page 2 Column 1)

A FOOL, A FRIEND AND A HERD OF SWINE

by James Raymond Hand
"But I can't understand, professor. How can the blood of a man who has been dead for nineteen hundred years, help me any in a hard-boiled workaday world like this?"

The question was sincere; of that I had no doubt. The expression on my young companion's face was earnest, almost eager. Just as earnestly I searched my mind for an answer that would satisfy — but in vain.

Ten years before this young man had been a student in my classes. Now, after graduation from one of our leading schools of agriculture, he had returned to the old home farm in central Indiana, where he was rather successfully translating his learning into dollars. He had driven some 25 miles just to hear me preach, and had invited me to go home with him to meet his parents. And my sermon had evidently failed, for it had only succeeded in arousing this question in his mind.

And it was a question that I could not answer. How can the BLOOD atone for my sin? I do not know. Until that time I had not even thought of seeking for an answer. I know that it does, and that knowledge had sufficed. How was I to answer that question? To say simply that we must accept it on faith was not enough. I had already said that, as emphasized again and again, in my message. In fact, it was that declaration which had inspired the question in this young man's mind. For that doctrine of the blood, which is so simple and is absolutely senseless, ridiculous, and silly to the natural man — even an honest one. I had forgotten that. Fortunately, I was not called upon to answer it immediately, for the boy continued.

"Don't think that I am trying to be controversial," he explained apologetically. "I am really interested. Dad and mother believe just as you do, and they think I am pagan because I question their position, but a fellow has to be earnest. I just can't see it. The fact is, I had intended asking you about it even if you had not spoken on the subject."

How? How? How? The eternal question of youth! And what was I to say to this boy who had so confidently come to me for a

(Continued on Page 5 Column 3)

DEAR ABBY

by Roy Snell
Charleston, W. Va.

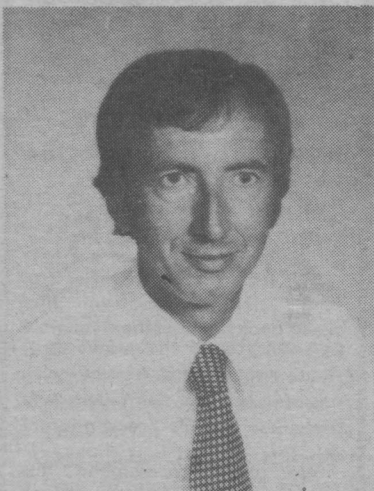
There are syndicated newspaper columns which claim to give "good" advice on matters of life and love, daily in the larger newspapers. Evidently it is not a reliable do-it-yourself venture, because one of two sisters who specialize in such a manner was recently involved in a divorce action herself, and this after several years of an apparently successful marriage. Sort of makes you wonder, doesn't it?

One of these multi-talented females is prone, on certain occasions, to recommend prayer and recourse to divine assistance for a way out of some bothersome and difficult problem, and at certain times I could have almost said "Amen" to her advice. At other times, all the advice is solely and purely humanistic. This week the column was not only humanistic but dangerous to the point of being deadly — as compared to what God's Word has to say on a couple of matters.

First, we had a young female who was inquiring as to whether she or her boyfriend was responsible for providing contraception when they were together. Secondly, she wished to know if she had the sole right of deciding on abortion, when and if she did become pregnant. Would you have expected the person with all the "good" advice to advise the young woman to marry the young man or to terminate any and all sexual activity? She did not, she simply said that there was "equal" responsibility not to get "caught." Would you be curious as to who might decide to abort? Our esteemed counselor said no word as to even alternatives to abortion — she said, "It's your body — that's your business."

If you can stomach one more, listen to this: In the paper Jan. 28, 1982, a concerned mother was in evident mental anguish and she wrote in regards to her youngest son having just been "married" by a priest, to another male (?), his best friend. The answer from this land's best known public advisor? Congratulations! You haven't lost a son, you've gained another son. If my God is capable of nausea, there must be times when he retches violently. That last sentence was my own and not that of Dear Abby. Should you desire a third opinion, go to Romans 1:27 & 28. "God gave them over..."

(USPS 042-340)



Ron Boswell

In all these cases, God knew the answers. Yet He would bring these individuals face to face with themselves by way of a question.

I believe the unchanging God still uses questions in dealing with His people.

Charles Spurgeon, the English Baptist preacher, was passing by an ale house. He happened to look in the window

The Baptist Examiner

THE BAPTIST PAPER FOR
THE BAPTIST PEOPLE

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Acting Editor

Editorial Department, located in
ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, where all subscrip-
tions 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.

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Two years \$11.00
When you subscribe for others or
secure subscriptions each \$ 4.00
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PITEOUS

(Continued from Page 1)

schemers has not changed much across the years. They were in the business — religious business, we might mention — of filching from the poor and from the rich then, even as they are now. Seemingly, there is no end to their scams and their schemes whereby they enrich themselves with worldly goods and services at the expense of those whom they delude.

In those days, we were very, very poor, but I did not understand anything about being "rich" or "poor." I was just a fairly happy lad who was especially pleased when Mr. Lehner took my mother, my sister, and me along to some of his meetings. He was a most gracious person who desired to do only good. Tragically, however, his involvement with the Pentecostals pretty well precluded his doing too much of that.

There was one special meeting which was conducted by one of the famed Pentecostals who had a very smooth tongue, but who was also a master artist. Again, Mr. Lehner invited my mother, my sister, and me to accompany him and his family.

My father had died in an industrial accident before I was two years of age. He was an electrical engineer — a profession he had chosen after he had taught in West Virginia for several years — at The Marble Cliff Quarriers near Columbus, Ohio. The man who ran the engine which killed him said that my father apparently had been dazed by a charge of electricity as he did not step out of the way as usual. So, on the rainy day that his mortal body was laid to rest on a lonely hill in West Virginia, my sister was born at home just outside Columbus, Ohio.

Therefore, since we lived in what was then the countryside, any opportunity to go to the big city was a real treat and really an adventure. Mr. Lehner graciously provided such

"outings" across several years. As I recall, we went most every night during this special series of meetings.

The Pentecostal Evangelist made a tremendous impression on me, though I recall very few of his words. At the back of the platform of this great tabernacle-like church, he had spread a great canvas. Each night during the meeting, he would climax his message by explaining that he was painting a picture of the crucifixion and a picture of a "bleeding Jesus," and that he would reveal all on the evening of the last meeting. I really lived in hope that Mr. Lehner would be able to take us. I would think of it during the day at school, also.

The special day approached!
The climactic hour arrived!
The evening and the moment came when the painting was to be unveiled, and I was there! Even to my unskilled eyes, it



Ray Waugh

was a little anti-climatic. I, of course, had seen pictures that men called "Jesus." Though this one was the most unusual, it was no more real than any of the others. Even then, I knew there was something wrong with such, though I, needless to say, was lost.

The canvas was unveiled! There hung, perhaps, one of the ugliest and most gross pictures I had ever seen, and I have not ever seen, and I have not seen anything in the intervening years to compare with it, really. I suppose, now, that he may have been attempting to demonstrate the truth of the Word which reads, "His visage was so marred that no man would desire Him."

In addition to the ugliness, however, there was the blood! My, what gore! I have never understood how artists do it. Nevertheless, with the proper techniques and perhaps the proper lighting, this evangelist made it appear that the blood and the water were flowing. It was shocking and bizarre! Yet, it appeared to be real in this instance.

There was blood from the thorn-crowned brow! There was blood from the mutilated face! There was blood from the beaten body, and the nail-scarred hands and feet! Too, blood and water seemed to be flowing from the side!

I was really impressed!
I have never forgotten!

During the intervening years, I have viewed a multitude of paintings, crucifixes, drawings, and sculptures of many sort that men have designed in their efforts to portray the Lord Jesus Christ. I have realized, however, that none of them compare with that painting which I viewed in that Pentecostal Church, so-called, more than 50 years ago. Thankfully, even then, in my youthful and lost condition, I was able to comprehend that such a demonstration of human depravity was a bizarre and a blasphemous mockery of Jesus, the one of whom some spoke of

as being crucified, buried, and resurrected.

In retrospect, I know that God was working in my heart even then. Though I knew not the meaning of faith, God, in His Sovereignty and in accord with His Elective Grace, was moving my heart toward that hour when I would believe on His blessed Son as my Saviour. I was appallingly ignorant, and I was lost. God, in His Mercy, nonetheless, was preparing my heart to hear His Holy Word and to believe His Holy Word. Wonderfully, God was making a way whereby, I might experience faith in His grace and know the salvation eternal, which we can have in the Lord Jesus Christ.

By the grace of our God, today, I can understand that every supposed picture, sculpture, drawing, or crucifix of Jesus is a bizarre mockery of the Saviour. Without exception, every such drawing, crucifix, picture, or sculpture is a lie! Every such picture, drawing, crucifix, or sculpture is an evil design and device borne of him who said, "Yea, hath God said?" Every such drawing, sculpture, picture, or crucifix has been designed in defiance of the Word, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth." All such "pictures," "sculptures," "crucifixes," or "drawings" of Jesus are especially false because no man can know anything of His appearance. All such, then, are the "inspiration" of Satan, "the father of lies," and the handiwork of depraved servants of Satan.

How appalling it is, then, that Christians will decorate their houses or homes with such! How tragic it is that Christians will decorate what they call their churches with such! How impossibly tragic it is that great hosts of the deluded masses of earth actually bow or genuflect occasionally or in a routine manner before such satanically-designed, pictorial devices which some men would have us suppose they have given a personality or a divine character.

God tells us that "The whole world lieth in wickedness" or "in the wicked one"! Perhaps it is no marvel, then, that men religiously indulge themselves with Satan's evident plan to persuade, control, and rule the adults of tomorrow by indoctrinating the children and youth of today with the lies of Satan which appear in the form of pictures, crucifixes, sculptures, and drawings of Jesus. To ensure that the adults of tomorrow are his abject servants and worshippers, the children and the youth of the land are provided with a steady religious diet today of pictorial devices wherein the Lord Jesus Christ is portrayed in pictures, crucifixes, sculptures, and drawings, everyone of which is a lie. Regarding such, we can be absolute!

Every such picture is a lie!
Every such crucifix is a lie!
Every such sculpture is a lie!
Every such drawing is a lie!
Who is "the father of lies?" Again, the Lord is absolute! He declares concerning Satan, "He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar, and the father of it."

Therefore, every such "lying picture," every such "lying

sculpture," every such "lying crucifix," and every such "lying drawing" of the Lord Jesus Christ is a product of Satan who "is a liar, and the father of it." Without any question, we can know that every such "pictorial device" originated with the Devil, who, "As a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

Imperious

Much confusion is abroad in the land. Some religious leaders are obtaining considerable sensational publicity as they take sides, as it were, in the matter of "Creationism" or that which some call "Evolution." In finality, however, does it make any difference that public school teachers are indoctrinating the children and the youth with evolutionary doctrine? How can it make any difference really when religious leaders and educators in all levels of conservatism and liberalism employ "lying pictorial devices" to portray the Lord Jesus Christ?

To some, it may appear that we have a diversity of factions, with one supposedly serving God and the other serving the Devil! When the final word is in, however, it should be evident to all that they are serving the same end. A lie from either perspective of the seemingly diversity has the same origin, even him who "is the father of lies." From either perspective, the children and youth of our land are being indoctrinated with "the doctrines of devils," and thereby they are being trained to serve Satan.

Such men may come to us with smiling faces! They may seem to be men of gentle demeanor. They may appear to be paragons of Pentecostal or Baptist, Presbyterian or Christian, or Protestant or Catholic gentility, but they are, in fact and in truth, servants of Satan, blasphemers of truth, and enemies of the Lord Jesus Christ. Truly, they are violent conspirators against the Lord Jesus Christ and His Churches — Judas Iscariots, if I may, who have come forth with a greater subtlety and even more effective schemes. Perhaps it is no marvel, then, that they give themselves to "crucifying Christ afresh," a truth to which I have spoken elsewhere at great length!

Their seeming respectful behavior may lead us to suppose that they have been in touch with the Lord in Heaven. They may appear to be men of conscious Christian concern for others. On the contrary, however, they are "wolves in sheeps clothing"; they are, in fact, "devils" wearing Christian disguises; they are as those who "said they were Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan." They may seem to be speaking truth, when they are, in truth, emissaries of darkness and purveyors of lies.

They may appear as "an angel of light" as the one whom they serve, though they walk in darkness. Concerning these, we may say, "Woe unto them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear; clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wander-

ing stars to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever" (Jude 11-13).

The question, then, arises! Shall we indulge in evil that some good may come? Shall we decorate our homes and our churches with the lying, pictorial devices of the Devil because they lend an aura of feeling or make an impression which seems to be good?

Shall we permit our publishing houses and our printers to play upon the feelings of those who can delight in the lies of the Devil to portray Jesus in Sunday School literature and in Church publications. Perhaps we, as Christians and as Baptists, need to get a handle, as it were, on our own rationale. And, thereby, we can answer the question, do we suppose that we can teach our children and our youth about a Holy God, the Lord Jesus Christ, by displaying before them the lies, the blasphemies, and the mockeries of the Devil?

The answer should be obvious to anyone who truly loves the Lord Jesus Christ, and who has any knowledge or understanding of the Word of God. The Apostle was rather definitive — yea, he was absolute, and infallibly so — if the Word of God has any meaning whatever. He enables us to know that "damnation is just" for all who would say, "Let us do evil, that good may come."

Note, if you will, that this is the Word of God! Certainly, what was true then is yet true today. We learn that our Lord is "The same yesterday, today, and forever." Further, we are helped to know, "Heaven and earth may pass away, but my word shall never pass away."

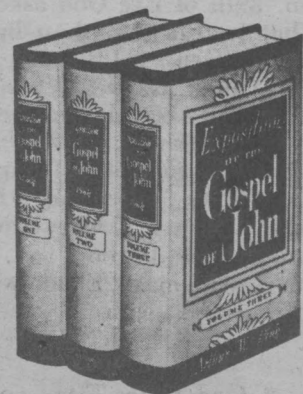
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Will we accept the Holy Word?

—to be continued—

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WHAT

(Continued from Page 1)

would deal with us by way of a question, bringing us to our first point.

I. The Mercy of God

Elijah had just had a mountaintop experience and now he was in the valley. He had fearlessly withstood the prophets of Baal. False religion had been dealt a terrible blow and the living God had been exalted. He had prayed and God had sent rain, ending a long drought. Revival had broken out among the people.

Then Jezebel, the wicked queen, sent word that she would have Elijah killed. Elijah fled and had entered into a cave. He was lodging in this cave when the merciful God whom he served asked him the question, "What doest thou here, Elijah?"

On the mountaintop, we see the power of God and in the cave, we see the weakness of man.

I believe Elijah was discouraged more by lack of support from God's people than from Jezebel. He keeps saying that he alone is left.

We should be ashamed that we do not encourage God's servants more than we do. Think what it might have meant to Elijah if some Israelite would have come forward and said, "We appreciate your stand for the truth" or "We are praying for you." Instead of condemning those discouraged servants of God, we might well ask what have we done to encourage them?

No matter what, God would not forsake His discouraged servant.

1. It Reveals God's Unchanging Love

"For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance" (Romans 11:29).

God did not send somebody else. No, He would not discard the one whom He had called. To say that a man can be in and out of the ministry, is to say a man can be in and out of salvation; both rest on an unchanging God and the eventual triumph of His matchless grace.

Jonah would disobey God's call upon his life and endure a terrible experience. A complete reading of the book of Jonah shows the triumph of God's grace in his ministry. God did not set Jonah aside and use someone else. No, He made Jonah willing.

So here in our text, God begins to make Elijah willing. He starts with a question, "What doest thou here, Elijah?"

2. God Takes Time To Deal Personally With Elijah

Think of God's mercy in taking the time to deal with Elijah. He could have used a rod or sharp words. He instead took time to deal patiently with a tender question. The picture presented is as though God had nothing more important to do than to correct His servant. I am convinced God has dealt like this with many of us. How in the face of such mercy can we fail to do His bidding?

We see the condescension of God in coming to the cave. The living God who created the vast universe comes to a cave in Horeb. Why would He that is worshipped by the universe stoop to a Cave in Horeb? Because in that cave was His discouraged servant. No doubt the universe stood spellbound as God, in a display of matchless grace, dealt with Elijah.

My friend, maybe you have

The best remedy for a sick church is to put it on a missionary diet.

been like Elijah. You are lodged in a cave somewhere, inactive and discouraged. Do not think it is by accident that these words come to you, "What doest thou here, Elijah?"

These words searched Elijah. I believe they ought to search us. Let us notice how searching they are.

II. Concerning the Ministry

Elijah sat down on the calling of God. I met a preacher in Florida. He had gotten out of the ministry. No longer was he pastoring a church. He was now driving a milk truck and teaching a Sunday school class in a Baptist church. He said one day he was in the milk cooler moving the cases of milk around. Suddenly these words came to him, "What doest thou here, Elijah?" He fell to his knees and later took the pastorate of a Baptist church. He had sat down on the job like Elijah and in the cave of the milk cooler, God had dealt with him.

(1) The Effect of Sitting in the Cave.

The enemies of God rejoice over God's preacher sitting in the cave. Can you imagine the followers of Baal rejoicing because Elijah was not there?

Today, those that teach works for salvation and every false way are indeed happy because some of God's preachers are in a cave.

Churches go pastorless and wolves enter in among the flock. I say, brother, how can you sit in the cave while God's people are torn apart by wolves?

I remember preaching from this text in an area of England where some Baptist churches were pastorless for many years. I later learned a young man had taken this text before his church and they ordained him. He had been in a cave and God had searched him with the question, "What doest thou here, Elijah?"

III. Concerning The Doctrines of Grace

Many have sat down in the cave of popularity. They have not proclaimed the doctrines of grace, knowing it would cost them to do so.

They have excused themselves by saying, "It is too difficult for the people."

The result is that free will abounds and free grace is unheard of. The Bible says, "Being justified freely by his grace..." (Romans 3:24).

Many preachers know more about the Bible than they tell the people. The Apostle Paul was not that kind of preacher, listen: "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27).

The preacher is said to be a steward of the mysteries of God. They are not responsible for results. They are responsible to declare all of God's Word. Listen: "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (I Cor. 4:2).

I say, are you in the cave with respect to the doctrine of unconditional election?

Are you in the cave with respect to the doctrine of total depravity of man?

Are you in the cave with respect to the doctrine of a limited atonement?

Are you in the cave with respect to the doctrine of an irresistible call by grace?

Are you in the cave with respect to the doctrine of the preservation of the saints?

If these doctrines are true and I believe they are, then God doesn't want us in the cave. He wants them proclaimed. The question then is, "What doest thou here, Elijah?"

IV. Concerning Our Service



The Baptist Examiner

BIBLE STUDY LESSON

By WILLARD PYLE

Pastor — Naples Park Baptist Church of Naples Park, Florida

Psalm 30:6-12

Intro.: David was a man of like passions as we are and discovered that by a knowledge of God's Word and by experience that he needed the Lord's help at all times; for on occasions, he leaned on the arm of the flesh and failed. Every saint needs to learn to, "trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths" (Prov. 3:5, 6).

VERSE 6

"And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved." In times of good health and wealth it seems God's people are prone to wander and forget the things of God. Generally, they neglect to pray, attend services, and read the Word of God. They become proud and boastful, and desire worldly praise and recognition. It is easy for them to become entangled with the affairs of this life (II Tim. 2:4). David, like Peter, had to learn, the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak (Matt. 26:41). We need to learn further that we can do all things, but only through Christ which strengtheneth us (Philip. 4:13).

VERSE 7

"Lord." This is the way to

For God

(1) Many Are Living In The Cave Of The Past

They have many fond memories of the past and how they used to serve God. Yet in the present, they do nothing. God wants you to serve Him now.

He has taken the time and shown the concern by bringing this message to your attention.

Some have their eyes upon the obstacles that confront them. Our eyes should be upon the Lord. If we regard our problems, then we will sit back in the cave and say, "Alas, what can I do?"

Listen to how the Word of God puts it, "He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap" (Ecclesiastes 11:4).

V. The Cave of Inactivity

Inactivity is sin. In the book of Haggai the sin was failure to build God's house. They did not object to the building of God's house, they did not oppose the building of God's house, they just did not build it. They were inactive. Maybe some of us are like that. We don't oppose God's work, we just don't do any.

God does not want us in the cave of inactivity. Listen to His question, "What doest thou here, Elijah?"

VI. The Cave of Sleep

Some of God's people are asleep. If it is not so, then why did the apostle write, "...now it is high time to awake out of sleep..." (Romans 13:11).

Listen to what happens while men sleep. "But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat,"

(Continued on Page 4 Column 5)

keep ourselves straight. Saul of Tarsus in repentance and faith said, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do" (Acts 9:6)? We should ever make this the desire and determination of our lives.

"By Thy favour Thou hast made my mountain to stand strong!" Yes, by the grace of



PROVERBS 14:1

Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.

God, David was what he was (I Cor. 15:10). This grace is sufficient (II Cor. 12:9). So "God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work" (II Cor. 9:8). We stand because God stands with us (Acts 23:11). By God's favour we can withstand all enemies and are more than conquerors.

"Thou didst hide Thy face, and I was troubled." There are times God will withdraw His support long enough for the saint to discover the error of his way. It is a dark night indeed when God's face cannot be seen. Remember, God the Father hid His face from Christ as He hung on the cross, and in that moment, Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me" (Matt. 27:46)?

VERSE 8

"I cried unto Thee, O Lord." A saint cannot go very long without a knowledge of God's presence, for he is miserable, and longs for the joy of salvation to be restored (Ps. 51:12).

"And unto the Lord I made supplication." David carefully ordered his case before the throne of grace. His prayer of confession became also his prayer of supplication. It is important that we acquaint ourselves with the matter of prayer, so we will not pray amiss.

VERSE 9

"What profit is there in my blood, when I go to the pit? Shall the dust praise thee? Shall it declare Thy truth?" David, in his despair, longs for the opportunity to again praise the Lord publicly, and to teach the truths of God, and he pleads longevity of life to have the opportunity to do this. This is not necessarily the best way to pray, but it does reveal the intensity of David. At this time he couldn't, or didn't have the knowledge Paul had when he desired to depart and to be with Christ, which is far better (Philip. 1:23); but he did desire the privilege to continue to serve God. It is in times like this that we all manifest the truth we know not what to pray for as we

ought (Rom. 8:26).

VERSE 10

"Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me." David knew his unworthiness and he, like the publican, knew his only hope for blessings, either temporal or eternal, was in the grace of God (Luke 18:13). The plea for a hearing can never be heard apart from the grace of God through Jesus Christ, our Great High Priest.

"Be Thou my helper." Provide the oil and the wine necessary for my healing, and provide also the means for further service (Luke 10:33-35). Be Thou my Sustainer and my Supplier, and thereby strengthen me to the work You have called me (II Tim. 4:17). Help from above is necessary if we are to serve God on this earth.

VERSE 11

"Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing." How glorious, when God changes our bed of affliction into a pulpit of praise. When He turns our mourning of pain into the morning of joy. The lame man lying beside the temple door, by the power of God, was raised to enter the temple, leaping and praising God. The wild man crying and cutting himself, was changed into a man content to sit at Jesus' feet in adoration, and to carry this message of joy back to his loved ones and friends (Mark 5:1-20). Sin and its results bring mourning, but the Sun of righteousness brings the morning of joy and dancing (Mal. 4:2).

"Thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness." Many times, even the saints of God have to have a change of raiment. David's sadness and sickness soon was replaced with joy and activity. Even in physical sickness, we can wear the garment of joy, if we suffer for His name's sake. David was again glad to go to the house of God (Ps. 122:1). He was glad to raise his voice in praise. The child of God is never fully dressed unless he is wearing the garment of praise.

VERSE 12

"To the end that my glory may sing praise to Thee, and not be silent." David ever kept in mind God had delivered him in order to use him to bring glory to God (Matt. 5:16), as this is what David had prayed would be done. His life had been spared, but not for a selfish end, but "to the end my glory may sing praise to Thee."

"O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto Thee forever." David would dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Ps. 23:6) and he would also give thanks unto the Lord forever. Neither life nor death will change this.

Conclusion: May we ever have the proper perspective as we consider our needs in this life, and as we view the future.

(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.)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
JUNE 5, 1982
PAGE THREE

If you were another person, would you like to be a friend of yours?

The Baptist Examiner Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

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

What is conscience? I Peter 3:16.

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"...Having a good conscience..." (I Pet. 3:16).

Conscience is that within a man which bears witness as to his thoughts, desires, speech, and actions as to whether they are good or bad. This witness is according to the standard that the man has adopted. Study these two statements carefully. Let me illustrate. A Roman Catholic had adopted the standard that his church is right. If he goes against this church, his conscience will witness within him that he has done bad according to the adopted standard. One adopts the standard that it is wrong to drink wine for any reason. He takes wine in the Lord's Supper. His conscience witnesses that he has done wrong according to the adopted standard.

Now, then, it is of first importance that one adopt the right standard, if his conscience is going to do any good. The only proper standard is the Word of God. So the good conscience must be that where one has determined to take the standard of the Bible as the proper standard of life.

But, further, man is a depraved being. Therefore, his conscience which is a part of the total man is also depraved. So when the conscience is depraved, and when one adopts a wrong standard, then, of course, one cannot let his conscience be his guide. Further, the conscience of depraved man can become seared as with a hot iron, so that it ceases to bear witness to him concerning his actions.

Now, when one is saved, he has a desire to please the Lord. He adopts the standard of the Word of God as the standard of conduct. He seeks by the enabling power of the Holy Spirit to walk according to the Word of God. When he does so live, his conscience bears witness of this fact, and he thus has a good conscience, and the testimony of this good conscience becomes a source of great joy to him, (II Cor. 1:12). May we be sure that we are saved, that we have the right standard of conduct before us, that we seek the power of the Spirit to obey that standard, and may we have the blessing of a good conscience. A good conscience is a great blessing, and a source of strength and comfort when others are speaking against us, misunderstanding us and/or misjudging us. I wish for you all the inestimable blessing of a good conscience.

Conscience is peculiar to human beings, and is the faculty that deals with the moral qualities of objects. All men are born with a religious and moral nature, and the conscience is that unique element in the natural man which determines his attitude towards what he considers to be morally right or wrong. It is conscience that determines the natural man's scale of values, and before his conscience all things stand as blameworthy or praiseworthy. The lower animals do not have a moral nature. There is no right and wrong with them, they are void of conscience, and are not subject to moral blame or praise.

All men are born with a conscience, but the conscience of the natural man is spiritually blind, and is invariably motivated by self-interest. Paul's conscience approved of his Phariseism before he was saved (Acts 23:1) and his conscience condemned everyone who took exception to it (Gal. 1:13). In regeneration the law of the conscience is not changed, it still acts in approving what it deems to be good, and in disapproving what it deems to be evil. But in regeneration the conscience is spiritually enlightened, and enabled to make judgments according to God's standard of right and wrong. Paul was caused to see the glorified Christ, and in the light of His glory he was caused to see that his Pharisaic morality which he pursued with all of his strength was evil, even though without reservation, approved by his conscience. Of his pre-regenerate life Paul says, his acts of blasphemy, persecution, and unbelief, were acts of ignorance (I Tim. 1:3); but of his regenerate life we read, "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost" (Rom. 9:1).

I Corinthians 8:6 & 7: "But to us there is but one God, the Father, of Whom are all things, and we in Him, and one Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom are all things, and we by Him. Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled." Lost man's conscience is "weak" and "defiled," consequently, his standard of morality is weak and defiled. Satan takes advantage of lost man's weak, defiled, and spiritually blind conscience, presenting to his conscience motives which are diabolical, but not contrary to man's weak

standard of morality. Paul prophesies of a time when man's conscience would become so weak that moral distinction between right and wrong would be practically erased.

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (I Tim. 4:1 & 2).

Man's conscience, whether he is saved or lost, is constant in its service to his scale of values, but once the conscience is enlightened by the Holy Spirit, the things which the conscience once approved are condemned and spurned, and the things he once loved are now hated and the things he once hated he now with his enlightened conscience loves.

Man cannot but follow his conscience, for it is self-evident that a person ought to do what he believes is right for him to do, thus it is, Paul said, "I verily thought within myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth" (Acts 26:9). And his conscience being ill-instructed approved of these "contrary" things. So we see, while the conscience is the best guide a lost person has, it is not a safe guide, for without Holy Spirit influence, it with constancy serves the depraved nature of man.

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Conscience, according to Webster, is a knowledge or feeling of right or wrong, with a compulsion to do right. Here in I Peter 3:16, "Having a good conscience" means having a conscience that does not accuse you of having done wrong. Regardless of what your enemies may say, you are at all times to live a life that your conscience does not condemn you.

The word properly means the judgment of the mind respecting right and wrong; or the judgment which the mind passes on the right or wrong of its own actions, when it approves or condemns them.

A 'good conscience' implied that the mind is enlightened to know what is right and wrong, or that it is not under an influence that would prompt us to do that which is contrary to the divine law. Without enlightenment conscience becomes an unsafe guide, for it merely prompts us to do what we think to be right, and if our views of what is right and wrong are incorrect, we may be led to do that which is a direct violation of the law of God. Paul thought he "ought" to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth

(Acts 26:9). Jesus told His disciples that the time would come when whosoever should kill them would think that they were doing God a service (John 16:2).

In Proverbs 14:12; 16:25 it is said, "There is a way which seemeth right unto man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Because of an unenlightened and misguided conscience, many crimes have been committed in the name of religion.

To have a 'good conscience' we as Christians need to study God's Word, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15). We, also, need to "pray always" seeking God's will to know what is right, and then, always do that which is right regardless of the consequences. "That whereas they speak evil of you as evil doers" (I Peter 3:16).

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Unlike many words in the Bible, there is only one Greek word that is translated conscience. The word, "sunesis," means "co-perception, i.e., moral consciousness" (Strong's exhaustive concordance of the Bible).

Wherever you see the word conscience it means to be aware of morality. Reading the verses before verse 16 in this chapter, we see that God's people are to be aware of Godly living. We are to live Godly and thus serve God by our lives as well as our words. Those who attempt to say we are not responsible to live a pure life are denying a very important teaching in the Word of God. In this passage for instance, we see that if people speak evil of us for a just cause we cannot expect to be effective in our witnessing. On the other hand, if people speak evil of us and we are living Godly, sanctifying the Lord God in our hearts (vs. 15), they will be ashamed — not us.

Our life should be centered around the Word. Study, we can answer and live, so our answer will be effective.

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The "having a good conscience" does not speak of the faculty of the conscience itself, which is naturally evil and defiled with sin.

However, the conscience can only be made good by the sanctification of the Holy Spirit and the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus, by which the heart is cleansed from sin in forgiveness, in being purged from dead works.

Hence, the believer is given life and conversation, agreeably, according to the dictates of such a God-given conscience, which is imbued with up-rightness and sincerity by the grace of God and according to the Gospel, whereby the doctrines of the

grace of God are adorned.

Then, besides, internal sanctification of God, on a fearing of Him, we find that in believing with the heart, there must be a profession of Him from the heart, and a reason of our faith and hope, as verbally given, should be exemplified, as occasion develops, in the discharge of our duty, both to God and man.

This is the one and only way, as God-given, that we have, in defending and recommending the doctrines of the Gospel in good conscience, even when "they speak evil of you as evil-doers" (I Pet. 1:16). Yes, even against such as are vain, proud, haughty, and arrogant persons, who, as seditious men, are enemies to order and civil government. Too, in confronting them, we must, in patience, be modest and humble in deportment, showing reverence and esteem of good conscience before them, that "they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good (manner of life) in Christ" (I Pet. 3:16).

The God-given purpose for this exemplar conduct, is that "...it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well-doing" (I Pet. 3:17) in consequence of your being in Christ; yes, as new creatures by Him, according to the Gospel and under the influence of the grace of God and by His Spirit.

In fact, all true believers, with a good conscience, should be reconciled to the fact that all things, as ordered by the will of God, even all the sufferings and afflictions of the saints, should be patiently submitted to, and borne.

WHAT

(Continued from Page 3)

and went his way" (Matthew 13:25).

Would the enemy have sowed the tares if men had not been asleep? The Bible doesn't answer that, but the fact remains he did his evil work while men slept.

Much evil work is done while Christian men and women sleep.

Satan's work in the occult continues while we sleep. The Walt Disney fairy tales sanctioned by many of God's people, glorify the occult. Witchcraft is glorified, wizards and sorcery are presented as good. Spells, charms and fortune-telling are presented as harmless and a way of life. Travelers from outer space have the answer for mankind.

The attempt is to destroy God's Word which condemns all such practices.

In the cave of sleep, child of God, listen to the question, "What doest thou here, Elijah?"

(1) Some Are In the Cave Regarding Their Testimony

Jesus said, "...tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee..." (Mark 5:19).

How can we be ashamed of Jesus who left the portals of glory to save us from our sins? We ought to be so thrilled about God saving us that we want to tell someone about it.

In II Kings 5, we read of Naaman, captain of the host of the King of Syria, being healed of his leprosy by Elisha the prophet. The picture is very interesting. Leprosy represents sin. Elisha did more miracles

(Continued on Page 5 Column 1)

TROUBLED

(Continued from Page 4)

than any man in Scripture except Christ. He is a picture of Christ. He followed Elijah the prophet as Christ came after John the Baptist, who came in the power and spirit of Elijah.

How did Naaman, a heathen, come in contact with the prophet? It was through a testimony. A testimony given by a little maid. She was a slave carried captive by the Syrians. She was taken from family and friends into a strange country. If ever anyone should have kept silent, judging by human reasoning, she should have. When she saw Naaman's condition, listen to what happened: "And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy" (II Kings 5:3).

I am sure we are not in the same terrible circumstances of the maid. She does put us to shame. Our silence is often greater than our testimony.

(2) Some Are In The Cave Regarding The Gospel

This is the greatest message that ever came to the human race. It is indeed fit for angelic tongues to preach.

How that the prince of Glory, God manifest in the flesh, came to die on Calvary's cross for sinners. That He endured the full penalty of sin for His lost sheep, that God raised Him from the dead to justify them. As the old hymn says, "Jesus Paid It All."

God Himself condescended to preach this message to Abraham, listen: "And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham..." (Galatians 3:8).

This message is greater than a man. I marvel at God's grace in using a weak instrument like me to preach His glorious gospel. This message is worth more than my life and all that I have. The greater view we have of the gospel, the more like a sluggard we feel. Beloved, you just can not sit in the cave concerning the gospel.

It was said of D.L. Moody that he made a vow with God that he would preach the gospel to one individual every day of his life. He wrote later that many a night he would be awakened with the thought that he had not spoken to anyone that day. So he would arise, get dressed and go out into the cold Chicago night to look for some skid row bum, that he might tell them the old, old story.

Now I do not believe that God wants us to make a vow with Him. I do believe He wants us to proclaim the gospel.

A preacher was called to the hospital late one night. An old man lay dying. He seemed very sad. The preacher asked if he were saved. The man replied, "Yes, I am 90 years old and I have been saved many years. I am ashamed to stand in the presence of Jesus because I have never done anything for Him. I was never baptized, never joined the church, never taught a Sunday School Class, never witnessed to anyone. I am so glad for the blood of Calvary's Lamb, but so ashamed for a wasted life."

If you are in the cave over the gospel, listen: "What doest thou here, Elijah?"

VII. Elijah Was Lodged In The Wrong Place

It was not wrong for Elijah to have a lodging place. God did

not question him when he lodged by the brook Cherith. God did not question him when he lodged in the widow's home in Zarephath. He was now lodged in the wrong place.

Many of God's people are lodged in the wrong church. It is not the church of your choice. Now that may be all right for a child of a Devil. A child of God ought to want the will of God in his life. We should be in a church of God's choice.

A child of God ought to have Bible conviction for what they are. A man or woman ought to be a Baptist because they read it in the Bible.

Some are in the wrong religious organizations, listen:

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

Jesus built a church during His earthly ministry and promised that it would exist until He comes again, listen:

"...I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).

He identified which member of the Godhead would build it — "I will build..."

I want to belong to the church that was started by my Redeemer, not one that was founded by John Wesley or John Calvin or any human founder.

In Matthew 3:1 we read, "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea."

We notice that John was a preacher and also a Baptist, both his name and his title "The Baptist" were given him by God. Then we can conclude that here was a Baptist preacher sent by God (as are all true Baptist preachers). In Matthew 3:13 we read, "Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him." The distance from Galilee to Jordan was about 60 miles, so then Jesus walked 60 miles to get Baptist baptism. He would not have any other kind, and neither should we.

The church at Jerusalem recognized Baptist baptism as a requirement for being an apostle as seen in Acts 1:22, "Beginning from the baptism of John..."

Some will no doubt think that I take quite a liberty when I declare unto you that the church at Jerusalem was a Baptist Church; however, notice the doctrine and see if it is not so. They baptized by immersion and before membership; also, they taught that baptism had nothing to do with salvation. How do I know that they believed in salvation by Grace (unmerited favor)? We have their doctrinal stand stated in Acts 15:11, "But we believethat through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved..."

Let me remind you that Christ walked 60 miles to be baptized by a country Baptist preacher.

Can you imagine standing before Him saying, "Lord, I didn't think it mattered too much." Surely He would say, "is it not written: ...ye should follow his steps" (1 Peter 2:21).

It is true that not all Christians are Baptists, but, my friend, there will be a Baptist on the throne in glory, even Jesus.

May this question search you in regard to your religious affiliation, "What doest thou here, Elijah?"

VIII. New Duties Await Elijah

After that Elijah had given his excuses to God in answer to God's question, listen: "And the Lord said unto him, Go..." (I Kings 19:15).

If this question has searched you then "Go." Your work is not over. Great events lie ahead. True, we have not been what we ought to have been, but by God's grace we have been given more to do.

The preacher called of God can not sit in the cave for long. Listen to Jeremiah's experience, "Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his world was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay" (Jeremiah 20:9).

TO THE LOST

This has not been a question for you. However, there is a question for you. The one that God asked Adam, "Where art Thou?"

Where are you concerning the shedding of the blood of Calvary's Lamb?

Where are you concerning salvation?

Where are you concerning heaven and hell?

The Philippian jailor asked the age-old question, "...What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30).

Of course, he could do nothing.

The answer to that question given in the Bible is this,

"...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..." (Acts 16:31).

May God bless you!

A FOOL

(Continued from Page 1)

solution to his problem just as in years ago he had come to me with a mathematical puzzle which he could not solve. And I had no answer for him. He had asked me for bread; must I give him a stone?

We rolled along the country highway in silence. I was searching my heart for an answer, and I saw that he was waiting expectantly. When we reached the old farm homestead the question was still unanswered. I fear I was not a very sociable guest that evening, for I could not get my mind off this important matter. I was thinking not only of Tom, but of the thousands of other young men and women in this exploratory age of ours whose earnest young minds are asking that eternal question — how? Surely there must be an answer.

That night I could not sleep until the wee small hours of the morning. I was praying that God would open the way that I might overcome this doubt in Tom's heart. But my prayers seemed unavailing. There seemed to be no answer. Finally I did sleep, but when I awoke I saw that it was very early. A bright, glorious spring morning greeted me as I looked from my window. I heard no sounds from the household so I decided that I would slip out and have a walk before breakfast as is my usual custom. I dressed quickly, and tiptoed down the back stairway. As I opened the door that opened on to a porch at the rear, Tom was just coming up the steps.

"Good morning, professor," he greeted me heartily. "You're up early."

"Always, Tom," I replied. "Who could lie abed on a morning like this? I'm off for a walk."

"WHO CAN FIND A VIRTUOUS WOMAN"

Who can find a virtuous woman,
Who serves God with all her might?
Oh, her price is far above rubies,
She is precious in God's sight.

Oh, this sweet and virtuous woman
Is her husband's joy and crown;
His heart can safely trust in her,
She will never let him down.

Her children arise and call her blessed,
Her friends and neighbors praise her, too;
For, to help, she is always ready,
She will ever be true-blue.

In her tongue is the law of kindness,
Her spirit is quiet and meek;
Strength and honor are her clothing,
The good of others she always seeks.

Now this world's favor is deceitful,
Beauty is a flower that fades;
But a woman that fears the Lord,
She shall certainly be praised!

Mrs. Frank Parrish
Courtland, Virginia

"Maybe you'd like to help me feed," he suggested. "I'd like for you to see my hogs. That's our money crop, you know?"

His suggestion was exactly to my liking, and I followed him to the stables. We got into a small truck loaded with barrels of mash, and started across a field. During the ride I scarcely heard a word of Tom's enthusiastic description of how his hogs had redeemed the old farm. I was asking God to open a way for me to satisfy Tom's searching question.

The truck stopped by a high woven wire fence. Beyond it I saw a large number of troughs with feed troughs leading to them from a master feeder at the fence. I noticed that the equipment was of the best. Tom alighted, and standing by the fence, his hands cupped about his mouth, he began calling, "Pooee! Pooee! Pooee!" Far in the distance I saw black specks begin to move. Shortly I saw that they were hogs. Hundreds of them. Here they came, waddling, running, rolling, grunting, squealing, all intent on the one purpose of reaching those troughs in as short a period of time as possible. There must have been nearly two thousand hogs in that herd. And as they came God seemed to speak to me.

"You've got a lot of hogs here, Tom," I said as I stood by the boy and watched them coming. "Aren't you afraid to keep so many of them together?"

"Why?" he asked as he ceased his vocal efforts for a moment and turned his eyes curiously towards me.

"Cholera," I replied. "It would be just too bad if you should get cholera in a herd this size."

"Oh, these hogs are all immune," he answered as he turned once more to his vocal exercises.

"What do you mean, immune, Tom?" I asked.

He looked at me again in surprise.

"They've all been vaccinated," he explained. "The serum treatment, you know."

"But I don't know, Tom," I insisted, "What is this serum treatment?"

He looked at me in surprise once more. I think that he thought I was jesting. However, I tried to maintain as simple an

expression on my face as possible, a task that is naturally very easy for me.

"It is a vaccine or serum treatment," he explained patiently after he satisfied himself that I was seriously seeking information, "similar to the vaccine treatment for other diseases."

"But how is this serum made, Tom?" I asked in a casual tone. "I know something of the smallpox vaccine for humans. It is similar?"

"I think so," he answered. "As a matter of fact, I know very little about the process myself, professor. The laboratory is near Indianapolis, and you could visit it if you cared to do so. I believe they take a perfectly healthful young sow, and inoculate her with the cholera germ. When the disease has reached just the right state, she is killed, and her blood forms a serum. Other hogs are inoculated with this serum, and they become immune to the disease. That's all I can tell you about it, professor."

"That's all I need to know, Tom," I replied. "The whole process is perfectly scientific, and is the one that God, Himself, has used from before the foundation of the world."

He had turned from the fence, and was dipping the mash from the barrels. He stopped, however, and looked at me quickly.

"What do you mean?" he asked.

"This, Tom," I answered. "Before the foundation of the world in the laboratories of Eternity, God selected a lamb, spotless and without blemish. That Lamb was inoculated with the dread disease germ of SIN. For centuries that disease germ germinated until the dark cloud of sin had shut out the face of God. On Calvary's cross nineteen hundred years ago He gave up His life, and His blood flowing there became a serum so that when man is inoculated with it, he is immune to sin. That's all I can tell you about it; Tom, except this one thing — it works!"

Tom did not take his eyes from mine as I spoke, but as I finished he dropped them, and a

(Continued on Page 6 Column 1)

A FOOL

(Continued from Page 5)

bright flush stole over his well tanned face. Then suddenly he dropped the bucket which he held, and started off across the field towards the house. I was astonished. Had I injured the boys feelings?

"Tom!" I called after him. "Where are you going?"

He turned, and waved his broadrimmed hat at me.

"It's all right professor," he called back to me, "but you'll have to feed those hogs yourself this morning. I'm going to tell dad and mother that I am taking the Serum cure."

TROUBLED

(Continued from Page 1)

delivered when God gave opportunity. God's message cannot be altered in any way, shape or fashion and still remain God's message. Truth cannot be compromised and remain truth! Any deviation and it becomes man's message and no longer God's truth.

It is time for us who know the truth to propagate it in all the strength we possess; placing our cause before the sovereign God of the universe. Such a ministry will without a doubt bring a severing of many relationships we now hold precious. The nearer one draws to the truth and the stronger stand one takes in proclaiming God's message, the smaller his sphere of fellowship becomes.

When a setterforth of God's Word is employed about that holy task as he ought, he will not find the time, nor desire for sports, partying and the frivolous waste so common among us today. Rest assured that those who slap you on the back and seek you out will not be so numerous when your life truly reflects your calling. The company of half-hearted Christians will not do when you enter into the place of devoted service to your God, for such involvement becomes a task to those interested in getting on with their Master's business.

Dear one, you are in serious trouble, if your time is spent on the golf course, the sports arena, the movie house, revelling, and even if family or business deter you from your appointed occupation, Stand alone if you must, but stand in the truth! We are living in the most blessed time man has ever been granted. The darkness of sin has settled over this globe, and never since the days of Noah has a testimony of God's truth ever shone brighter than now. Even the feeblest of lights seem so much brighter in the darkest night. The "well done" of our Saviour should be incentive enough for those who look for the any-moment-appearing of Jesus in the matter of our service. If one cannot serve well without the acclaim and comfort of the crowd, it is ridiculous to assume they could do better with the approval of the crowds.

God's man is called to serve and serve he will. Let sickness come and he serves. Let friends forsake and still he serves. Let financial ruin overtake him, and yet, he is serving. Let all men ridicule and reject his message

and he cannot cease. When there is not one reason to go on, there is that undying compulsion to continue in the face of many adversities. When you find such a person; ask why such dogged persistence in service. He will answer even as the Old Testament prophet who had determined not to speak any more in the Lord's name. Beyond all human reasoning and power there is that fire burning in God's man's bones that he cannot forebear; and he must serve; he must bear God's message. God's Word is more important to God's man than life itself. Read Job 23:12 to find the proper attitude one is to have in serving. Remove God's Word and God's man has no reason to go on.

If a preacher can quit, he should quit. If he can be satisfied doing anything other than preaching, he ought to do that which he is satisfied with and not burden the ministry with another problem. God spare us men who come to the pulpit with the world in their hands, their hearts, and their mouths.

The man of God has counted the cost; and while he is not self-confident nor relying upon the flesh; he has the full assurance in the inner man that "He that hath begun a good work" will complete it. It is this assurance in the inner man that sustains him when the winds of adversity blow. And blow they will, for II Timothy 3:12 declares, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." Can the Word of God be trusted? Can we take



QUESTION:—When did ears swallow ears?

ANSWER:—In Pharaoh's dreams, Genesis 41:5-7, "And he slept and dreamed the second time: and, behold, seven ears of corn came up upon one stalk, rank and good. And, behold, seven thin ears and blasted with the east wind sprung up after them. And the seven thin ears devoured the seven rank and full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and, behold, it was a dream."

the Bible literally? Is it relevant today? Then, beloved, I insist, on the authority of God's blessed Word, a God-honoring ministry will be attended by trouble.

Will a world that crucified our Saviour treat us favorably? Is the servant above his master? We are warned to beware when men speak well of us. But it would seem many today are courting the favor of all they come in contact with. I am not suggesting that we go forth with the intention to offend folk. If you will preach God's Word you will find all the problems you need. It is the trouble brought

about by contending for the truth which brings glory to God. What kind of trouble can you get into by preaching the truth in the Lord's churches? These folk are the cream of the crop; they'll receive what Scripture says and contend for it. Let me suggest some truths that might bring you some trouble if you bring them before your folk:

1. Teach them the truth about the heathen holidays of Easter, Christmas, Halloween and ask them for a raise in salary.

2. Insist on a sound missionary program where the church and not a missionary board authorizes and you might find yourself in a foreign field.

3. Take away their Welch's and use the scriptural element, wine, and you will find out how sweet people can be.

4. Insist that the women cover up and shut up in the assembly and you'll find out who really runs the church.

5. Question the validity of someone's baptism and you may end up in the baptism yourself.

6. Take away the unscriptural many cups and insist the Lord's supper be observed with the proper one cup and find how much man cherishes his traditions.

These are just a few of the many issues which brings the man of God trouble. You may say "I know these things are true, but they just can't be preached where I pastor. If that be the case you have no business being where you cannot preach the truth without hindrance.

Pride sometimes keeps a man in a place where only the troubling hand of God will move him.

Brethren, this article is not to cause contention, but to bring before you the serious position into which the man of God is placed. What you have found to be the truth of God's Word, contend for it as though you were the only one to whom God had revealed that truth. It is in the faithful discharge of our duty as ministers of the gospel that God is glorified and man will be rewarded. That we give ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word is God's design; anything else comes of sin. If in the faithful discharge of your duty as a man of God you should be charged with having a troubled ministry; you stand in some blessed company of whom such like are Abel, Stephen, Paul, the Apostles and our Saviour Himself. I fear those who would label one as having a troubled ministry stand as Ahab and are troubled by a ministry of truth. May you be found faithful is my prayer!

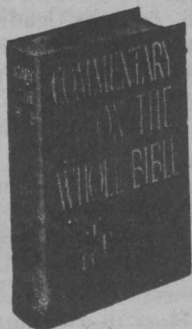
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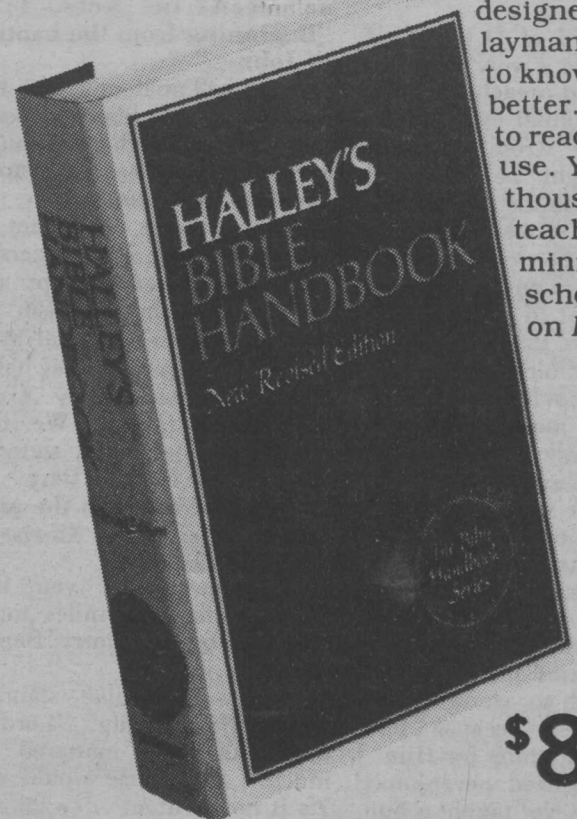
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"WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE RELIGIOUS WORLD TODAY"

WASHINGTON

(EP)—Ending weeks of speculation, the U.S. Supreme Court announced it will decide if religious schools practicing race discrimination are entitled to federal tax exemption. According to the high court's public information office, the cases of Bob Jones University, Greenville, S.C., and Goldsboro (N.C.) Christian Schools against the U.S. Government will be argued next term. The court previously announced it will hear the last cases of its current term April 28.

In its April 19 series of orders in the cases, the high court cleared its docket of pending motions and counter-motions filed by several parties, including the Justice Department, Bob Jones University and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The tangle of motions in the celebrated cases began Jan. 8, when the Justice Department asked the court to allow the government in effect to withdraw and to nullify a lower court decision against the schools. At that time the Justice Department said it agreed with the schools that the Internal Revenue Service had overstepped its legal authority by revoking Bob Jones' tax exemption and denying similar status to Goldsboro Christian Schools.

For its part, the IRS since 1970 has routinely denied tax exemption to private institutions, including religious schools, which maintain racially discriminatory admissions policies. But under orders from President Reagan and the Justice Department, that policy was renounced in the Jan. 8 motion. Four days after the motion was filed, however, Reagan denied that the action was racially motivated and announced he would send Congress a bill specifically forbidding tax exemption to such schools.

WASHINGTON (EP)—On Ash Wednesday, February 24, a number of people around the country began fasting as a penitential response to the naming of a "Hunter-Killer" nuclear-attack submarine "USS Corpus Christi" — the "Body of Christ." One of the fasters is taking water only. His condition is stable after 50 days. Both the White House and the Navy Department have received thousands of appeals from people who consider the submarine's name a sacrilege and want to see it changed. The White House has been totally unresponsive, and Navy Secretary John F. Lehman is adamant in his refusal to change or reassign the name. As of April 10, more than 200 congregations in 160 cities coast to coast have made plans to conduct special services that focus on the naming of the submarine.

WASHINGTON (EP)—President Ronald Reagan's multibillion dollar tuition tax credit proposal is patently unconstitutional and unwise public policy, according to Americans United for Separation of Church and State. "This scheme, designed to pay off political debts, will be disastrous for public education, interfaith harmony, and a sound economy," said R.G. Puckett, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

The President unveiled his program April 15 in Chicago at the annual convention of the National Catholic Educational Association. He has proposed a tax credit, a kind of direct federal payment, equal to 50 percent of tuition paid to a private or parochial school up to a maximum of \$500 by fiscal year 1985. The credit would be phased in with \$100 in 1983 and \$300 in 1984.

Citing his organization's concern for the First Amendment's guarantee of religious freedom through the separation of church and state, Puckett called on Congress to reject the Administration's plan. Ninety percent of the students in nonpublic education are in religious schools. Sixty-five percent are in Roman Catholic parochial schools with the remainder in the schools of less than a dozen other faiths.

WASHINGTON

(EP)—President Reagan has cited a Missouri Baptist woman and a nun as an example of those who saw a local need and organized to meet it without seeking government help.

At a White House luncheon hosted for more than 100 Protestant, Catholic and Jewish leaders, Reagan said that Janice Webb and a Roman Catholic nun, Ruth Haney, mobilized churches and individuals to establish Agape House, a temporary residence for families of prisoners in Jefferson City, Mo. Webb and Haney initially raised \$46,000, the president explained, to purchase an old rooming house to accommodate members of prisoners' families when they came to Jefferson City to visit their loved ones.

Reagan quoted Webb as saying, "Our sole purpose is to provide agape, God's unconditional love to prisoners and their families." Reagan praised the project as exemplary of what he hopes will become a massive voluntary effort by churches and synagogues to meet local needs without help from Washington.

Reagan told the leaders that charges his administration is insensitive to the poor are unfounded. "I'm not suggesting, nor have I ever suggested," he declared, "that churches and other voluntary groups should pick up the dollar for dollar cost of reduced federal programs. I just believe it would be a good thing for the soul of this country to encourage people to get involved and accept more direct responsibility for one another's health, happiness and well-being, rather than leaving it to the bureaucracy."

Reagan pointed to Jesus' parable of the good Samaritan to repeat what has become one of his favorite lines in arguing for more help from private sources: "He didn't go running into town and look for a case worker to tell him that there was a fellow out there that needed help. He took it upon himself."

UNITED NATIONS

(EP)—The United States, casting the sole negative vote, vetoed an Arab-sponsored Security Council resolution April 20 that would have condemned a shooting at Jerusalem's holiest Islamic shrine as "sacrilege." The 14 other council members, including Britain and France, supported the resolution, which attributed the April 11 shooting

of Moslem worshippers to "armed Israelis" — not just a lone "mentally ill" Israeli soldier, as Israel's government reported.

Two Arabs were killed in the Easter Sunday attack on Jerusalem's Dome of the Rock, and nine Jews and Arabs were wounded. Alan H. Goodman, an American-born Israeli army recruit, is being held by Israeli authorities in connection with the shooting. Israel's U.N. ambassador, Yehuda Z. Blum, assailed the resolution as an effort to stir up Arab religious fanaticism against Israel and "to associate Israel with the act of a single individual acting on his own."

Explaining her veto, U.S. Ambassador Jeane J. Kirkpatrick told the 15-nation council that the resolution contained language, "which implies that the responsibility for this terrible event lies not with the individual who was responsible for the incident but with the Israeli authorities who have unequivocally denounced the act." Tuesday's was the third U.N. veto in the Security Council this year on behalf of Israel.

BALTIMORE, Md.

(EP)—A leading Soviet writer has come under sharp attack for suggesting ever so timidly that there might be a God. Anthony Barbieri, Jr., Moscow correspondent for the Baltimore Sun, reports that Vladimir A. Soloukhin, a famous Soviet poet and essayist who has been a member of the Communist Party for 30 years, expressed the view in a widely read literary journal last year that "in the Twentieth Century, there is no doubt for every reasonable person that a supreme reason exists in the world, in the universe, in life."

According to Barbieri, the suggestion, as mild as it was, runs counter to the official state theology of the Soviet Union — atheism — and won Soloukhin a scolding from no less a journal than *Kommunist*, the theoretical and political monthly of the Soviet Community Party. There may be worse in store for the writer, since *Kommunist* complained about the frequency of "God-creating and mystic subjects" in Soloukhin's work.

Barbieri says the controversy is significant because Soloukhin is a well-known writer who, though he has had his share of disagreements with the authorities, has not fallen out of official favor. The fact that he has been criticized in a high-level journal like *Kommunist* may be a warning to other writers and cultural figures whose opinions do not coincide with official communist doctrine.

SAN FRANCISCO

(EP)—Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, national director of inter-religious affairs for the American Jewish Committee, issued a press release March 9 claiming that Pope John Paul II had, for the first time in Catholic Church history, called for the abandonment of "any and all attempts to convert the Jews." This release was widely carried through Religious News Service. However, the Pope never made any such statement, according to Jews for Jesus. RNS issued a correction the following week in which Rabbi Tanenbaum then claimed he was misled by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (a news service chiefly to Jewish publications).

The fact of the matter is that Rabbi Tanenbaum's duties make him to be an anti-missionary and he has done everything possible to discourage Christians from

evangelizing Jews, says Jews for Jesus. For example, on November 11, 1977, he was quoted in the Miami Herald as saying that Billy Graham was "the greatest friend of Israel and the Jewish people in the 20th century" because of, among other reasons, "his repudiation of proselytizing of the Jewish people through the deceptive techniques of such movements as 'Jews for Jesus'."

Upon his return from overseas, Graham repudiated the statement. Yet, Rabbi Tanenbaum continues to falsely quote Graham as making that statement. Moishe Rosen, the leader of Jews for Jesus, said, "Tanenbaum's continual use of disinformation to achieve his own purposes has become a major threat to Jewish-Christian understanding. Rabbi Tanenbaum does not speak for the Jewish people; he is simply an information officer for the American Jewish Committee, a membership organization which is supported by a minority of Jews. On the Jewish scene, he is a minor functionary. To Gentiles, however, he has become a major representative of the Jewish people. The American Jewish Committee has less of a mandate to represent Judaism than the knights of Columbus have to speak ex cathedra for the Pope. Neither Pope John Paul II nor Billy Graham have done very well to have Marc Tanenbaum express their viewpoint."

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay

(EP)—Dr. Joe A. Rogers, President of World Gospel Crusades in Upland, Calif., has returned from South America to report that the Every Creature Crusade just completed in Uruguay was "the most systematic, thorough and effective Scripture distribution campaign in the history of Uruguay." This was seconded by Secretary General Guillermo Milovan of the Bible Society of Uruguay who also said this is evangelism programs they have been involved in. According to Dr. Rogers, "the Every Creature Crusade has produced more lasting fruit in church growth and souls for Christ than any other Scripture distribution program ever attempted in Uruguay." Mr. Milovan commented that the closest comparison was in the mid 1970's when Oswald J. Smith brought 200,000 Gospels of John to Uruguay. Further, Mr. Milovan has stressed that never has he seen a more complete cooperation of the churches of Uruguay.

RICHMOND, Va.

(EP)—After consultation with Baptist convention leaders in Nicaragua, Southern Baptists Missionaries Ed and Kathy Steele have left the central American country shortly ahead of their scheduled furlough. The Steeles, music missionaries from Oklahoma, returned to the United States April 9. Their early departure leaves Nicaragua with no Southern Baptist missionaries. The present Nicaraguan government, established after the Sandinistas overthrew the Anastasio Somoza government in 1979, had not asked Southern Baptists to leave. Nevertheless, other groups, such as the Moravians and Jehovah's Witnesses, have been unable to stay.

Relations between Nicaragua and the American government became severely strained earlier this year with Nicaraguans accusing the Reagan administration of planning an invasion from neighboring Honduras. Recently, the U.S. State Department has indicated will-

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ingness to negotiate with Nicaragua, which it has accused of selling arms to El Salvador guerrillas.

MORRISTOWN, N.J.

(EP)—Acting to assure access to cable TV systems, National Religious Broadcasters is leading a drive to amend the proposed Cable Copyright and Carriage Bill. The NRB amendment, sponsored by Congressman James Collins of Texas, exempts religious television stations from the audience-size requirements, which under the new legislation would determine the "must carry" status of local television stations.

NRB executive director Ben Armstrong urges public support of the amendment. He points out, "Not only religious TV stations, but religious program producers and the religious audience as well, have a stake in the NRB-Collins amendment. Without this amendment, the status of religious television on cable systems across the country would be endangered, and as more communities go into cable in the years ahead, religious TV would face the inevitable likelihood of extinction."

The Cable Copyright and Carriage Bill, sponsored by Congressman Robert W. Kastermeier of Wisconsin, incorporates a compromise worked out between representatives of commercial TV stations, cable TV system operators and motion picture producers. The bill, which affects copyright royalties as well as station carriage, was drafted originally by the House subcommittee dealing with copyright matters and was revised before being sent to the House subcommittee on telecommunications. The NRB-Collins amendment exempts religious stations from meeting the ratings requirements of the bill. "Ratings would be an unreliable basis for determining the quality of service which our stations provide," states NRB first vice president Jerry Rose. Chairman of the NRB television committee, Rose is president of WCFC-TV Channel 38 in Chicago.

SCRIPTURALLY USING THE LORD'S DAY

by Roy Snell
Charleston, W. Va.

I realize that I have a recognized track record for taking the contrary and divergent approach to much that is prevalent and popular in even some of our Baptist assemblies today — often to the extent that I appear as the epitome of negativism, a hair splitter, nit picker, legalist and one who will strain at a gnat and swallow a camel. It seems that I am constantly harping on certain of the generally accepted practices which may be of little or no consequence in my Lord's churches. Admittedly, some of my personal foibles and idiosyncracies are directed at, and critical of, activities which are not in themselves intrinsically evil. However, I am reminded that it requires but an infinitesimal amount of leaven in order to leaven the whole. And that it is the little foxes which spoil the vines.

It is in this light, then, that I wish to comment on the widely accepted practice of purloining one of my Lord's appointed days for the sole purpose of preaching a mother's day sermon. For expressing my views and thinking on this matter I fully expect to be castigated, and possibly stoned, knowing full well that my subject approximates a sacred cow to many. Especially so, to those of a more sentimental, emotional and humanistic slant inherent in their makeup.

As you pick up the first stone will you also pick up your Bibles

and find for me the scriptural license or biblical precedent or antecedent for taking one of my Lord's constituted worship days and allotting that time to motherhood. The New Testament has no record of any such practice. Now do a little research and you will find that you are following after the "tradition of men," or more specifically, the tradition of a woman. Just a few years back a lady in West Virginia dreamed up, and worked to have a national Mother's Day observance to be celebrated in the month of May. She had no directions from James, John, Peter or Paul to incorporate such a memorial into a New Testament church — to occupy a Sunday. The idea of such a tribute is in no wise wrong except that the application of the principle has served to consign my Lord to second, or, at least, equal billing on the second Sunday of every May.

I am also fully aware of the teaching of the virtuous mother in Proverbs 31, the most singularly honored and blessed woman in all the universe was the mother of my Lord, I know the story of the honoring of the widow and the mite and I am aware of what Jesus said concerning the woman of Bethany (probably one of the Marys) who did anoint His precious head with ointment, i.e., "...Wheresoever the gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her" (Matt. 26:13). Please take note that this was a particular instance, involving a particular person who was to be

remembered "wheresoever" the gospel is preached and certainly does not set aside a specific calendar Sunday to revere all virtuous mothers. Also please be advised that if Satan can reduce our sovereign and all powerful Lord to a secondary or even a shared status for just one day, then he has out-manuevered God's children once more.

The plain teaching of my Bible is that mothers, yea, both parents, are to be loved honored, cherished, obeyed and provided for all the days of their lives, every day of the year. Let us not allow for any latter day tradition which deprives our Lord of one iota of His honor and glory, or even competes for the time which is allotted for His public worship.

My firm contention is based on the fact that I find no scriptural license for "lifting" up the most deserving mother in the Lord's assembly on the Lord's day. Jesus never said that if my mother be lifted up she will draw all men unto me. And this in deliberate disregard of what the Romanist fondly clings to. Jesus said that if I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto myself.

"Know ye not that 'Christ is the head of the church, that in all things He might have the preeminence'" (Colossians 1:18). Have you forgotten that our God is a jealous God and that He says that He will not give His glory to another (Isaiah 42:8).

If He is jealous of His glory — then may I be like minded. Children, love your mothers. Husbands, love your wives and the mothers of your children — even as Christ loves and is jealous for His church, even while having no rapport with that which might momentarily detract from the pure worship of an omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent and altogether Sovereign Lord.

DOES TRUTH FIT ONE FOR HEAVEN?

Raymond J. Dickie has a Trailer Court in Stockton, California. Robbers broke into his office early one Sunday morning.

When they failed to discover the hiding place of his money, they beat Mr. Dickie over the head with a hoe handle; and threatened to kill him with a hatchet if he did not inform them where the money was hidden.

According to the newspaper account of the robbery, Mr. Dickie is reported to have said: "I told them where the money was because I did not want to tell a lie; for if I told a lie I would not go to heaven."

The Bible enjoins us to put away lying and "speak every man truth with his neighbor" (Eph. 4:24); but lest someone should get the idea that refraining from telling lies fits one to enter Heaven, it must be said: by all means be truthful; but all truthful persons are not on their way to Heaven.

The Lord Jesus said: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me" (John 14:6). Tell the truth certainly; but if you wish to enter Heaven, you must place personal faith in Him Who is the Truth, the whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth.

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2. Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

3. Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

4. Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

5. Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Enclosed \$ _____ for _____ Subs

Your Name _____

Address _____

**GIVE US READERS
We Will Give Them The Truth!**