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

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THE GAP THEORY — SPEAKING THE TRUTH

Elder Merrel E. Kaley
Landmark Sovereign
Grace Baptist Church
Simi Valley, Ca.

Jeremiah 9:3 & 5, "But they are not valiant for the truth. And they will deceive every one their neighbor, and will not speak the truth." Also read Ephesians 4:14, 15. Beloved, this message was prompted by recent articles in The Baptist Examiner and other periodicals that come to my home. Now, The Baptist Examiner and many of the papers that reach into my home, do indeed have my utmost respect. Some of the articles have been written by men I love and respect deeply! I must confess that I was torn before writing this epistle, between writing to the man/men personally, or sending this treatise to The Baptist Examiner for publishing!

However, noting the many readers of The Baptist Examiner and the other publica-



Merrel E. Kaley

tions, and being aware that a personal letter would in no way refute or reach the many minds so impressed by the articles. Therefore, I shall begin. "Gap theory" — even the very name would signal a warning! Any

"theory" by its nature, is that which cannot be proven, nor observed to have occurred! This is a good and definitive measure of the so-called gap theory and its equally appalling sister; the day/age theory! The so-called gap theory supposedly heralds a time between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 and thus the "gap" between the verses. Good men, yea Bap-

(Continued on Page 2 Column 4)

HAVE YOU BEEN SANCTIFIED?

by Roy Mason
(1894-1978)

Various holiness groups have so distorted the doctrine of sanctification that we have a tendency to shy away from it.



Roy Mason

However, we must realize that the Bible unmistakably teaches sanctification. It does not teach the holiness brand though.

The holiness people teach that subsequent to conversion, one can go down to an "altar" and through a process of prayer and agonizing can get "wholly sanc-

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PURPOSE OF HIS CHURCH

by Chuck Samdelin
Samuels, Idaho

"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Eph. 3:21).

We have been doing a series of studies and articles concerning "The Church" these past issues. As we come to the close of these church study articles it brings to my memory the words of a teacher of mine several years back who said to me one day, "Have you ever asked God for a teachable spirit?" Of which I said, "No, I guess I never have." After that, I did in

earnest ask the Lord Jesus Christ for a "teachable spirit." Truly as those who ask Him for wisdom, He gave me truths to the Bible doctrines that He has not been pleased to give to all. He opened the "Church Truth" to me — and a few years later, "the wine issue" and many others.

As that question asked to me by one of my former teachers led to the change in my life's beliefs — it is my hope and desire that you might ask the Almighty God to give you a teachable spirit and then open your eyes and heart to love "The Church Truth" and "His Church" as He

(Continued on Page 5 Column 5)

THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE

Raymond A. Waugh Sr.
Part II

In all of this, of course, I am making no judgment as to the state of your spiritual condition. I would not want to make any



Ray Waugh

guesses, even. I am pleased to know that you taught five years in a Baptist Sunday School. This may be indicative that you, at one time, had access to the truth of the Word of God and the Gospel. It may be that it was under such Gospel preaching that some 17 years ago you, as you have said, "came to Christ," and that you were then immersed and added to one of the Lord's Churches.

Such is not the case with most Pentecostals, however. I found it rather sad that not one time in the tract which you sent was the Gospel of the Death, the Burial, and the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ presented wholly and simply. Occasionally, one may hear the gospel preached among the Pentecostals, but it is usually by someone who has been a Baptist and who has then been deceived and deluded. For the most part, the Pentecostals spend their time proselyting, or speaking of what they call "holiness," "tongues," or "salvation by baptism."

These piteous Pentecostals have never learned that it is only by The Spirit of God that any person ever believes the Word of God, and, thereby, that Jesus is the crucified, buried, and resurrected Saviour who is living today, and who is very God of very God. Most of them are so busy with their fraudulent "healing" and their "speaking in tongues," that they have little or no time for the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Without any fear of contradiction, I can say that if you believe as S.R. Hanby that

(Continued on Page 5 Column 1)

AGREEING TO DISAGREE

by Roy Snell
Charleston, W. Va.

Practically all of us who have been in the way of the Beloved for any length of time have been witnesses to divisions and splits in the Lord's assemblies. Some, nay, many have been members of some worshipping bodies where a member or a group of members found or imagined some reason for serious dissent. Regrettably, in some such instances the differences are believed to be irreconcilable, resulting in some disassociating themselves from their brethren and departing to place their membership in another assembly, with frequently a "new work" being instituted by

those departing and dissenting brethren.

In the eyes of neophyte believers and under the scrutiny of the unbelieving world, this can be a most unfortunate circumstance — plus some of those new assemblies being organized with little or no biblical authority for their existence. However, this is not always true. Also, there have been some godly persons who have departed from an established assembly and who were justified by the Scriptures for their move.

I do not charge our God with being the author of sin, but I do know that our Sovereign Lord can and does make even the wrath of men to praise Him. Hence, it doesn't impugn His honor nor tax His omnipotence to use disagreeing Baptists in order to enlarge His word of witness in some new area.

I have had some personal experience along this line and I know of many others who can witness to the same. Passing years and subsequent godly lives has certainly been an indication that I John 2:19 does not serve to indict all of those who "went out from us" as being an anathema to God and the church. In this passage if the liar and that one who denies the Son is one and the same as "They who went out" then they were apostate and had no part in the Beloved. If such was the

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The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Joe Wilson

"OUR UNIQUE BIBLE"

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (II Tim. 3:16).

As I was working on this sermon, I was seeking for the proper word to use in the title. The word 'unique' came to mind. I learned that its definition was, "One and only, single, sole, different from all others. Having no like or equal." I then knew that this word was the word to use. For surely the Bible fits this definition. There is no other book like it in all the world. It is different. It has no like or equal. A godly saint lay dying. "Bring me the Book" he said to his son. "Which book?" said the son. The dying saint replied, "There

is only one Book, bring me the Bible." Surely, we can all say amen to this.

The Bible has many wonderful things to say about itself. We learn from Joshua 1:8 that the path of meditating upon and walking in obedience to the Word of God is the path to prosperity. Psalm 1:2-3 tells us some things about the blessed man. He delights in the law of the Lord and meditates therein day and night. As a result this man is like a tree planted by rivers of water, bringing forth fruit, and prospering in whatever he does. Oh, my brother and sister, no book of man can guarantee and produce the prosperity which the Bible can. I refer to the important prosperity, that of the soul in

spiritual things. Look at Psalm 119. It is altogether about the Word of God. How fitting that the longest chapter in the Bible should be totally about the blessings produced by reading, studying, and obeying the Word of God. Only a few of the one hundred and seventy six verses of this Psalm do not contain a reference to the Bible. One can cleanse his ways, be delivered from sin, obtain great peace by this Bible which can be a light to one's path. Jeremiah 15:16 tells of the joy that comes from the Word of God. One could go on and on telling of what the Bible says about itself: what it is, what it can do, and what one should do relative thereto. The things said of the Bible can be said of

(Continued on Page 2 Column 1)

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THE BAPTIST PEOPLE

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UNIQUE

(Continued from Page 1)

no other book. Truly it is our
unique Bible.

The Bible is unique in its
origin. All other books were
written by men. The mark of
their human origin is upon
them. But the Bible was written
by God. It is inspired of God as
my text tells us. Peter tells us
that holy men spake as they
were moved by the Holy Spirit
(II Pet. 1:24). Repeatedly does
the Bible refer to the fact of its
unique origin. And this Book is
the only book in the whole world
which originated with God. I do
not mean, as some do, that the
thoughts were given by men,
and then written in their own
self-chosen words. I do not
mean, as some do, that some of
its is inspired and some of it is
not. Then, one would need an
inspired book to tell us which
was which. I do not mean, as
others do, that some of the Bible
is more inspired than others.
For inspiration is a word which
does not admit of degrees. A
book is either inspired or it is
not. It is impossible to be more
or less inspired. When I speak of
the inspiration of the Bible, I
mean two things! I mean that
every word in the original
manuscripts was inspired by
God. God spoke to and through
the human writer every word,
and that very word was written
down. Then I mean that every
part of the Bible is inspired. The
history, the geography, the doc-
trines, the ethics, the warnings,
the promises, and all else is in-
spired of God. What I am say-
ing is that every word in every
part of the Bible is inspired by
God.

Now, the older I get, the less
interest I have in what is called
'apologetics.' That is, in giving
different arguments to prove
that there is a God and that the
Bible is the inspired Word of
God. I believe that many good
arguments can be given for these
things, but I am not arguing a
point in this message, I am

stating a fact. Believe it or go to
hell. Now you say that is very
narrow. Well, I am narrow-
minded in that my thinking is
bound within the limits of God's
Word. Again, I say that the Bi-
ble is inspired of God, believe it
or go to hell. I do not believe
men are saved men who deny
this truth. The Bible is the only
book in the world which tells
one how to be saved. If a man
does not believe the Bible, then
how would he believe what it
says about how to be saved, and
how could he be a saved man?

The Bible is unique in its con-
tents. Oh, that blessed Book!
What important, wonderful,
and blessed truths are contained
in its pages! There are things in
the Bible that are more impor-
tant, and that we need to know
more than all other things
besides. I am not against secular
education. I am for it. But one
can afford to die without ever
learning anything of this nature.
You can afford to die without
being able to read or write,
without knowing arithmetic,
history, geography, or anything
at all in the knowledge of the
world. But, my friend, you can-
not afford to die without know-
ing some of that which is con-
tained in the Bible. The Bible,
as to its contents, is more impor-
tant than all the books of men
put together. These things
which we need to know more
than anything else can only be
learned from the Bible. Only in
the Bible can we learn how it all
began. So-called science books
give forth a multitude of theories
as to the origin of the universe,
the earth, and man. Any science
which does not completely
square with the Bible on this
subject, is a false science. We
believers in the Bible under-
stand, yea, we verily know how it
all began. God created it. That's
how! The Bible is the only
source of authoritative informa-
tion as to how it will all end. The
press sends forth a multitude of
the guesses of men as to what
lies ahead. But believers in the
Bible know much about the
future, and know of a surety
that it will all end with an eter-
nal Heaven and an eternal Hell,
and that Jesus Christ is the dif-
ference between the two.

The Bible is the only source of
factual information as to God:
His nature, being, and at-
tributes. The Bible alone tells us
the facts as to man: his origin,
his sin, his need and his future.
Old writers used to talk about
the three "r's" of the Bible, and
these tell much of the unique
contents of the Bible. They are:
ruin by the fall, redemption by
the blood, and regeneration by
the Spirit. Surely these are
among the most important of
subjects for man to know, and
they are taught only in the Bi-
ble. Oh, that the Spirit of God
will teach you from the Bible
these saving truths!

The Bible is unique in its un-
changeableness. The books of
men need constant revision. The
text books of my school days
have been discarded or revised
many times. But the written
Word of God is like the Living
Word of God: Jesus Christ. It is
the same yesterday, today, and
forever. The Book we read to-
day is the same that our
forefathers read, believed,
preached, lived by, and died for.
It is unchangeable. The Bible is
also unique in its duration.
Men's books come and go.
What a multitude of books have
come forth from men, had their
day in the limelight, and then
disappeared forever! But the
Word of God will never pass
away (Matt. 24:35). Beloved,
there will come a time when all

other books will disappear
forever, and the Bible will be the
only Book in the universe. Not
only this, but the Bible has ex-
isted from eternity. Psalm
119:89 tells us that God's Word
is forever established in Heaven.
The Bible existed in its totality
in the mind of God from eterni-
ty. In time God inspired men to
write down that Word which
had been concealed in His mind
eternally. In eternity future that
Word will exist in its totality,
just as it did in eternity past and
does in time.

Now I desire to give much at-
tention to the fact that the Bible
is unique in its power. It can do
what all the books of men can
never do. The Bible has saving
power, Oh! praise the Lord!
That part of it which constitutes
the gospel: which tells about the
person and saving work of Jesus
Christ — that He died for our
sins, was buried and rose again
— that gospel is the power of
God unto salvation to everyone
that believeth. The Word of
God, mixed with Spirit-given
faith is able to make one wise
unto salvation (II Tim. 3:15).
The Word of God has life-giving
power (Psa. 119:50). In fact,
James 1:18 tells us that God,
"of His own will begat us with
the Word of truth." Brethren,
with these Scriptures before us,
and many more like them, I find
it utterly impossible to under-
stand how anyone can believe the
Hardshell heresy of regeneration
apart from the Word. I stand ut-
terly amazed at how many of
our dear brethren have received
this awful heresy, and are now
preaching it. The Bible contains
that gospel which has soul-
saving power. Of all the books
and theories of men, not one,
not all of them together can save
a soul from Hell. But the Bible,
when mixed with God-given
faith is able to save the soul from
Hell to Heaven eternally.

Because of this saving power
in the Bible, it can make the
drunk sober. It can make the
harlot pure. It can make the liar
truthful. It can make the thief
honest. It can make the proud
and self-righteous to be humble
and to trust savingly in Jesus
Christ. It can make the covetous
and greedy to be generous sup-
porters of the work of the Lord.
Beloved, have any of these great
things ever been accomplished
by the books of men? No, not
one. But a multitude will testify
to this power of the Word of
God. The Bible has the power to
make a new creature out of a
man, change his life forever-
more to his own good and the
good of others and to the glory
of God, save his soul from Hell
to Heaven eternally. Surely, the
Bible is unique in its power.

But there is more to this part.
The Bible has strengthening
power for the child of God.
Where can I find food for my
soul which will strengthen me
for the tasks God has given me?
Where can I find that which will
build me up in the faith? Oh, I
am so weak. I need strength so
badly. Where can I find
strength. The Bible is where it
is Listen to I John 2:14b: "I
have written to you, young
men, because you are young,
and the Word of God abideth
in you, and ye have overcome
the wicked one." See here that
the Word of God abiding in one
is the source of strength and the
secret of overcoming the devil. I
maintain that the Bible is the
only place in the world where
one can obtain 'Soul Food'!

There is a comforting power
in the Word of God. How many
times and how many of the
children of God have had their
broken hearts healed by the pro-

mises of the Word of God.
When my oldest boy was taken
in death, I found my chief, if not
my only comfort in the pages of
the Blessed Bible. I went home,
and upon my knees in prayer,
and over the open Bible I found
that which gave comfort and
strength for that trying time.

The Bible is a great source of
joy to the child of God (Jer.
15:16). Can we not all testify to
this even as Jeremiah did? Have
not all the children of God sat
down to a meal from the Word
of God and rose up filled with
great joy? Yes, we have. Who
can tell what joys, thrills, and
delights have come to the souls
of the children of God by
feeding upon the Blessed Bible?
Now, one could go on and on
describing and detailing the
power of the Bible. It is an inex-
haustible source of meditation.
But surely, enough has been
said here to show that the Bible
can do what no other book can:
that it is truly our unique Bible.
I can only say to one and all, try
it for yourself and you will come
to realize that 'the half has never
yet been told.' Try it, you'll like
it.

The Bible is unique in its
future office as the judge of all
men. Listen to the words of our
Lord in John 12:48: "The word
that I have spoken, the same
shall judge him in the last
day." What solemn and soul-
searching words are these! My
dear friend, you are not the
judge of this Book, But this
Book is to be your final judge.
Men sit in criticism upon the Bi-
ble. But the fact is that the Bible
is to be the final critic of the
thoughts and deeds of men. You
might say to me that you do not
believe the Bible and do not ac-
cept it as authoritative. That
does not matter at all. The Bible
is not seeking your vote of ap-
proval. The Bible is not asking
for your opinion of itself. Your
not believing the Bible does not
change the matter at all. The Bi-
ble is the absolute, sole, and
final standard of God's re-
quirements for men. All men
will be judged by what is written
in the Bible.

Oh, lost man, hear this word!
You had best get acquainted
with what is written in the Bible
now. For one day you will be
forced to get acquainted with its
contents. You may neglect and
ignore the Bible today and
tomorrow and next day. But
should you die without Christ
you will be dragged from the
Hell you have been suffering ter-
rible torment in. You will be
brought before Jesus Christ and
the white throne judgment. You
will be forced to become ac-
quainted with the Bible as that
Word will burn and scorch your
soul as you are forced to hear it
and give account for your failure
to heed its teaching.

Yes, the Bible is to be the
final judge of all men. All men
will be judged according to what
is written therein. Oh, I beg you
to hear this: the only way to
escape the awful Hell which is
described with burning words in
the Bible is to receive the
Saviour who — blessed be His
name forevermore — is describ-
ed in that same Bible. What will
you do with and about the Bi-
ble? Truly, it is our unique Bi-
ble!

May the Lord bless you all!

THEORY

(Continued from Page 1)

tist men, have seen fit to make
much ado and even create
"doctrine" out of that which has
"not been said" Strange in-
deed, would you not agree?

Between the two verses so

noted is a "theory" that in or
during this gap (?) a pre-world
existed! A world inhabited by
Satan and his demons, perhaps
(opinion is divided) some human
like creatures and "by all
means" dinosaurs and
prehistoric creatures. Also, of
necessity, some cataclysmic
event (?) occurred, and this
preworld died! Very interesting
stuff, this! But is it true? I say
no, no, no!

I am deeply concerned about
the liberties we Baptists
sometimes take with the Word
of God! In my personal studies,
it seems this theory became
generally popular only in the
last 35-40 years and was enhanc-
ed by the Scofield Reference Bi-
ble notes! And "that" as a result
of "Protestant theological think-
ing!"

I have been unable to find any
true New Testament Baptist
scholar or churches that in the
past espoused such a view! All
books I have read concerning
the first 400 years of the early
Baptist churches and writings of
the so-called church fathers are
silent on any such subject. I see
no such teaching in Genesis 1:1
and 1:2, nor in the Old Testa-
ment. And the New Testament
is "devoid" of such. Certainly
the "oldest" book of our Bible,
Job, admits of no such
teaching! On the contrary, Job
says he saw these supposed pre-
historic creatures (Scofield's
notes not withstanding). Job
39:9, 40:15 & 41:1 — therefore,
establishing their living ex-
istence to within five to six thou-
sand years ago!

At least part of the delusion of
those espousing the gap theory is
the idea that Satan was utterly
cast out of Heaven during this
time of a pre-world! Again, I
disagree. My studies not only do
not see Satan cast out and onto
some allegoric and alleged pre-
world, but the rather, my own
understanding of these scrip-
tures is one of "prophetic" and
not yet fulfilled nature! Why?
Note in Job 1:6 the declaration
that there was a day, "when the
sons of God came to present
themselves before God and
Satan was among them." Satan
was not only among the
angels in Heaven, but had ac-
cess to the very throne of God!
Thus he was not utterly cast out
of Heaven! Again Job 2:1 Satan
is found among the throne of
Heaven, with apparent right to
be there! Note - there is no hint
of surprise nor rebuke at his be-
ing there. Certainly he was com-
ing among them from going to
and fro in the earth and walking
up and down in it. But when?
In a pre-world? Nay, but rather
in a man-inhabited earth of
which Job was a part. Long
after our first parents, and long
after many, many humans had
died. After multitudes of years
Satan still might verily say; but
his case was different, he was
going to and fro. What proof is
that of his being utterly cast
out? Did not Michael go to and
fro? Remember Daniel? Did
not Michael come to his aid?
What about the lion's den? Did
not "one like unto the Son of
God" come to his aid - to and
fro? Have not myriad of angels
come to and fro throughout Old
and New Testament history?
The birth of Christ? To Mary's
espoused, Joseph! How about
today? Do they not come to our
Baptist assemblies, and note our
ladies' head coverings that they
might know more of the great
mystery of salvation which
scripture saith they desire to
know? So then, Satan's goings
to and fro proves nothing of his
being utterly cast out of Heaven.

(Continued on Page 3 Column 1)

THEORY

(Continued from Page 2)

He is not unlike the criminal who has come to trial, been judged guilty, and is now awaiting sentencing while out on bail. Can any deny that he is still loose and wreaking havoc on this sin-cursed planet?

Concerning my former comment as to Job seeing and describing what we (yes, even Baptists) call pre-historic (because of constant bombardment of psychological nature from humanists, evolutionists, schools, newspapers and T.V.) beasts. Let me ask you to carefully read the descriptive nature of the Scriptures regarding these creatures of Job. Job 40:15 could not possibly be a hippopotamus! Why? Note the description of his tail (Job 40:17). Have you ever seen the small snake-like tail of a hippo? Certainly not like a strong cedar tree! Again, Job 40:16 — is the hippo's strength in his loins? Certainly not! And any precursory look at a hippo shows the fallacy of "muscles of his belly." A hippo's weakest spot is his underside or belly. It literally hangs with fat, and has little or no strength at all!

When I personally showed these descriptions of Job to a research scientist friend of mine, his response was; "Oh, yes, you are describing brontosaurus rex and dinosaur." (Behemoth and Leviathan) Certainly, I agree with my Pastor/elder brethren that these creatures lived and that true scientists have proof of this. But, beloved, "we" more! Baptists especially! We have an eye-witness (Job) which science does not! The question then becomes, "When?" During some mystical, maybe, illusory, preworld that begs for evidence? Much, much more evidence? Or shall we accept God's account of these beasts as rendered in Job?

We have so long, brethren, been subject to inundation of secular evolutionary humanism and scientism, that when someone says dinosaur, we automatically think pre-historic — think about it!!! Even we Baptists (it would appear) have become so cowed that we are trying to make our Bible lineup with scientism. We have no need, my brethren, as true science will always lineup with Scripture!

If one espouses then, the "gap theory" he then puts himself in league with the same bunch who hold to the day/age theory denies the literal six day, twenty-four hour, creation of our blessed Lord — as found in the Genesis account. Conversely, the gap theory denies the literal rendering of Genesis 1:20-25. God said He created (Barah — out of nothing) verse 21, every living creature after their kind. Has God, any patriarch, or any prophet, ever said that He created any living creature before Genesis 1:2 or between 1:1 and 1:2? If not, then we had best not build a doctrine around what may have happened — indeed a doctrine that causes separation between Baptist brethren on such very meager evidence.

While have addressed all of the above in a fashion, I trust you will find worthy of consideration, I would like now to add God's (not my) coupe-de-grace by setting forth one Scripture. By this single, simple Scripture, the gap theory falls heavily by its own weight. Please read Romans 5:12. Note, e, by Adam's sin death entered in-

to the world (this planet). Here God tells us that original death came by Adam's sin. Both the why and how of death is answered. At this point I ask my preacher brethren who hold to the delusory view of the gap theory to show us where the Scripture ever shows death before Adam's sin? For they must show us, as it is vitally necessary to their theory! They will search forever, beloved, for nowhere in the Word is original death mentioned except in connection with Adam's sin. First Adam's sin occurred and death occurred after. That physical death is meant here as well as spiritual death cannot be denied. Our many cemetaries will attest to that amply. In Romans 5:12-21 evidence is herein given of the how and why of death's first stalk upon this world. Can you, my brethren, on the other hand show me any Scripture alluding to death in a pre-world? (indeed you cannot show a pre-world).

If indeed a separate pre-creation existed (and it did not) between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2, then it would be self evident (and they so alleged) that that creation died! Their admittance to fossils (bones) which do clearly indicate corruption of flesh and therefore death, attest to this. My question then, is, Why? And how? If death occurred before Adam's sin, then we nullify Romans 5:12! Can any be so bold?

While God gives us the why and how of death, the gap theorists give us a mystical, hazy and unscriptural perhaps and maybe of both their why and how. Having built a skeleton, they now cannot give it flesh! Without the ability to prove death occurred before Adam's sin — the gap theory falls.

It has become increasingly popular among Christians and even some Baptists to gain the world's good will (some do not realize this) by subscribing to the cult of scientism in this area of pre-history and pre-historic prattle that tends dangerously close to theistic evolution. And is a kissing cousin to the day/age theory of six ages of time encompassing millions of years each, that is the product of unreasonable men seeking to make God's Word reasonable. God forbid the necessity of such!

The motive? To show how very reasonable we are and to gain scientism's admiration — seeing how scientific we are. Shall we, as preachers of the most high God fall in with them? We should be standing atop our pulpits in the forefront, denouncing this teaching, not promoting it!

I fear that Elder Mike King in a recent article to The Baptist Examiner, has hit a spiritual bullseye with his remarks and declaration that Baptist men are relying too heavily on libraries stocked with the works of Protestants, Pede-Baptists, and so-called Baptists! It is well past time that we rid our libraries of such damaging material if we cannot properly sift the chaff from the wheat. Perhaps, it is time for some book burning among our Baptist preacher brethren.

As Elder Ray Hiatt said some time ago in reference to the "Priesthood bunch"; they go too far! Too far? Yes, indeed the gap theory goes much, much too far! Personally, I hold it in the same contempt as the preisthood theory and the day/age theory. As Elder Mike King says, we assume too much from works that are not Baptist. Back to



Psalm 35:1-8.

Intro.: David, being a man after God's heart, had a zeal for the glory of God which was affected both by the faithfulness of the righteous, and by the wickedness of the ungodly. He was a man of compassion and kindness, and also a man of righteous indignation who spoke out against wickedness in high places. He, of course, was a man inspired of God to prophetically portray and set forth the end of the righteous and the end of the wicked. In this Psalm, we see him surrounded by the armies of the enemies of God who were attempting his complete and permanent overthrow. They were both subtle and strong, and therefore David brings his case before the Righteous Judge of all of the earth.

VERSE 1

"Plead my cause." The need for an advocate is ever present with the saints, for they by nature have no good thing in the flesh, and are ever accused by the adversary: He who is the mastermind at misrepresentation and deception. David is not seeking to justify himself as a man, but he is talking as one called and commissioned of God, and who is convicted that his cause is just; this is the basis of his plea. Every child of God has a right to the throne of grace in this way (Heb. 4:14-16).

"O Lord." David takes his case directly to the One who is qualified, and to the One specified to handle it; to the One Who knows what is in man, not only what he does, but why he does it.

"With them that strive with me." The enemy was not shadowboxing, but was using all his strength and wisdom. They were pulling with all their might, seeking to take David down. They were gathered together against him.

"Fight against them that fight against me." David needed both an Advocate to justify

the Book — back to THE Book, brethren.

While I personally would not make the gap theory a test of fellowship, I would name it for what it is (in my humble opinion) namely, an irregularity at best, and heresy at worst. Personally, I believe it to be the latter!

I would leave some food for thought for my preacher brethren who hold the gap theory and worry over the scientist's story of great age when it comes to prehistoric (?) creatures! Imagine, my brother, if you will — an imaginary trip back into time — say five minutes after Adam's creation. As you approach Adam, you would ask him; how old are you, sir? Why I am five minutes old, sir. But you look about nineteen or twenty years old. Well, God created me with the look of age built in! Now if you should get Adam's permission to cut down a tree, would not the fully grown tree have rings? Of course! If Adam allowed you to dig several hundred feet deep — would not the earth have strata? Of course! The fully grown tree

(Continued on Page 4 Column 5)

The Baptist Examiner

BIBLE STUDY LESSON

By WILLARD PYLE

Pastor — Naples Park Baptist Church of Naples Park, Florida

him, and a Soldier to defend him from the attack of the enemy.

VERSE 2

"Take hold of shield and buckler." Use the weapons at your disposal, for they are sufficient to overcome all of the weapons they have, or could ever have. The shield and buckler were both defensive and

BIBLE VERSE



Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead? Acts 26:8

offensive. The saints of God are to put on the whole armour of God (Eph. 6:10-17).

"And stand up for mine help." David knew when God stood up, the enemy would be vanquished. Thank God, Jesus "must reign till He hath put all enemies under His feet" (I Cor. 15:25). So "we are more than conquerors through Him" (Rom. 8:37), and we can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth us (Philip. 4:13). Thank God, He stands up, and stands with, and stands by His own.

VERSE 3

"Draw out also Thy spear and stop the way against them." As we wait the day the Lord will vanquish the enemy completely, we can rejoice even now that He stands between us and the enemy, and holds them off while we perform His work, and while we worship His Name; or if He allows them to take hold of us, even this shall further the gospel (Philip 1:12). Spiritually, God's spear or sword is His word (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12). God's servants should learn from the Captain of our salvation how to draw out the Spear and use it on the giants who walk to and fro.

"That persecute me." The evidence of the character and condition of David's enemies is seen in their attitude toward the man of God and his message. They were like the murderers of the Lord Jesus who would rather have a "notable prisoner" released, and kill an innocent man (Matt. 27:16-23).

"Say unto my soul, I am thy salvation." David longed for words of comfort (I Thess. 4:18) in the midst of the conflict when the accusations of the enemy rang in his ears. He needed reassurance to strengthen him for he felt his unworthiness and weakness. Possibly he was thinking of the words of the Lord to Abraham in Genesis 15:1: "Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward." David believed, "salvation is of the Lord." Salvation is not of us, or by us, but is brought to us (Titus 2:11).

VERSE 4

"Let them be confounded and put to shame that seek

after my soul." This is not the cry of a man who is merely vindictive, but of one who knows vengeance belongs to God (Heb. 10:30). If God permitted His purpose through David or any of His servants to fail because of the enemy. His Name would be dishonored.

"Let them be turned back and brought to confusion that devise my hurt." The plans and power of the forces of evil will eventually come to nought. They will not only be stopped, but turned back and retreat in absolute chaos. Hitler, and others are only examples of fools publicly unveiled.

VERSE 5

"Let them be as chaff before the wind." The wind bloweth where it listeth, and will be used to intercept the wicked and even to correct the saints. Spiritually, it blows in the salvation of sinners (John 3:8). The chaff will be separated by the Lord in judgment and will be seen to be utterly worthless. The tares may flourish and look good, but will come to nought.

"And let the angel of the Lord chase them." Angels, particularly the "Angel of the Lord," are sent forth as ministers to the heirs of salvation (Heb. 1:14), but in relation to the wicked, they are sent to bring confusion and judgment.

VERSE 6

"Let their way be dark and slippery." The wicked, in their flight to avoid judgment, will be one of complete darkness, which will bring fear and extreme suffering. Added to this, they will have no solid place for their feet, and will be unable to stop their slide until they reach the bottomless pit. The darkness they love now, because of their sin (John 3:19), will be a part of their eternal judgment.

"And let the angel of the Lord persecute them." Again, David does not take vengeance into his own hands, but leaves it in the hands of the proper authority.

VERSE 7

"For without cause." That is, they have no just cause for what they are doing. This, along with other truths in this Psalm, apply in the fullest sense to the Lord.

"Have they hid for me their net in a pit, which without cause they have digged for my soul." Much time and effort had gone into their desire to destroy David.

VERSE 8

"Let destruction come upon him at unawares; and let his net that he hath hid catch himself; into that very destruction let him fall." This truth is seen in the case of Haman. The wicked will find the curse he uttered, falling on his own head!

Conclusion: These are very solemn verses, and need to be viewed with the proper attitude, by the people of God.

(EDITORS NOTE: If you would like to write to Br. 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).

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

The Baptist Examiner Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER — P.O. BOX 71 — ASHLAND, KENTUCKY 41105-0071

What should the attitude be of the believer in putting flowers or wreaths on the grave of a loved one? Is it pagan? Is it a Christian memorial? Should young children be taken to the grave to put flowers on their young mother's grave?

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In giving a lesson from biology, God makes the transitory nature of "the flower of the grass" (Jas. 1:10, 11), to symbolize the transitory nature and fate of the natural man after the flesh.

So, according to God's purpose, flowers are for productive purposes after their kind, as provided for in His production of them in their various hues of colors.

So, as to their construction, we find that a yellow granular flour-like substance of spores grow in the anthers, which, upon germination on a ripe stigma, produce the sperm cells necessary to fertilize the cells in the ovary. Hence the pollen tube, which carries the sperm through the style to the ovary, perpetuates plant-life in the form of seeds.

Consequently, as far as man is concerned, "the flower of the grass" in its transitory form is only good for live stock feed, compost, or garbage.

Further, we find that the same cause of the growth is, likewise, the cause of their decay and desolation. For instance, the same sun, whose warming rays nourish and sustain all natural life, also, by the design of God, have an adverse affect, as illustrated in James 1:11.

Similarly, earthy riches are subject to mutability. Therefore, in God's discretion, He gives or restores that which He takes away for reasons of His own pleasure and purpose, but always righteously.

Metaphysically, in considering the exalting and humbling influence of the Holy Spirit upon the man of God-given faith, James continued in the same vein, in relating how all human beings, as to nature, are also transitory, in being subject to rise intermittently and fall by increase and decay, which, because of the curse, belongs alike to all life on the earth.

Consequently, if a man (even of God-given faith) should so be humbled like "the flower of grass," he will also be compensated, as affirmed by David, when he affirmed that "In Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (Ps. 16:11).

The desolation of the natural man, then, is the state also of the believer in anticipation of the time when this mortal body (as "sown in dishonor") will be "raised in power," in putting on of "immortality" in resurrection (1 Cor. 15:53-54).

Then, in this stage of life, the

believer, like the evening primroses, is caused of God to burst forth in blossoms of spiritual beauty and sweetness of character that crowns them with the golden light of the majestic mercy of God. Hence, with the fading of mundane things, believers are prepared to immediately enter into the glory of their precious Redeemer to enjoy the true riches of His matchless grace, which never fades away.

Yet, the believer may put flowers or wreaths on the grave of loved ones, which, indeed, is a beautiful gesture. But this act of love and respect is not recognized in the Bible as a Christian memorial. However, to the contrary, in observing a custom (fetich) by the distortion of the prophecy of the true Messiah, Whose name the "Branch," we find that the "Branch of Cush" was substituted to be honored instead. Consequently, this use of flowers and wreaths (as a fetich) was made use of by Negroes in Africa, and even in India there are traces of the same practice. Too, even in our time, much is made of this practice, in playing upon the sympathies of people for commercial purposes.

Hence, in consideration of the foregoing instruction, my advice is that the children, in honor of God, should be instructed accordingly in anticipation of the coming resurrection to the glory of God.

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Memorial day is 114 years old this year (1982), and is one of the oldest of our nationally observed occasions. Labor Day came along several years later, and Armistice Day (now Veterans Day), is, with its World War origin, a recent development by comparison.

The original purpose of Memorial Day, or Decoration Day, as it is now more commonly called, was to honor the dead of the South, who had fallen in the War between the states. But the custom of strewing flowers on the graves of their fallen soldiers soon became the practice of the North, and it was eventually extended to all the U.S. war dead regardless of what war they fought in. Today, its scope has been broadened to include both, the military and the non-military in its observance.

Historically, Memorial Day was established as a reminder of the tragic consequences of war, but due to its being observed more often in times of peace rather than war, much of its meaning and solemnity has been lost, and it has become just

another means of respite from work and is generally used as an occasion for carnal pleasure.

As to the original purpose of Memorial Day I cannot find any Biblical precedent for it, nor any precept against it, but I do find in my experience the great majority who observe Memorial Day are utterly ignorant of the memorial which the Lord gave to His church to remind them of His death (1 Cor. 11:23-26; Lk. 22:19).

Monuments of remembrance have for thousands of years been raised up for famous men, but all of these fade into utter insignificance when compared with that blessed memorial of the Lord's death which has traveled over twenty centuries of time, and shall continue to be honored by the Lord's church until He returns. Carvings in stone by the fingers of men are in due season erased by the elements, but the Lord's memorial goes on and on untarnished, and treasured by His blood-bought church.

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By looking at a few passages of Scripture we can see the attitude of God's people of Bible times concerning their dead. At the death of Sarah, Abraham bought a field of Ephron for a burying place, "And the field, and the cave that is therein, were made sure unto Abraham for a possession of a burying place by the sons of Heth" (Gen. 23:20). At the death of Rachel, it is said, "And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave" (Gen. 35:20). When Jacob died, "his sons carried him into the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, which Abraham bought with the field for a possession of a burying place of Ephron the Hittite, before Mamre" (Gen. 50:13). At the close of Joseph's life it is said, "And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence. So Joseph died, — and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt" (Gen. 50:25, 26). Many, many years later we see that this oath was carried out, "And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, — (Exodus 13:19).

In the New Testament we find the women visiting the tomb of Jesus bringing spices as a memorial to Him, "Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them" (Luke 24:1).

From these passages we see

that the people of God in Bible times respected and honored their dead, therefore I see no reason why we should not do the same today.

As to young children being taken to the grave of their mother, what better way to teach them to keep a memory of their mother and to honor her? This also presents a good opportunity to teach them truths of the Scripture concerning life, death, present state of the dead, life after death, and many more truths of the Word of God.

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I don't have any objections to putting flowers on a grave site. I don't encourage it either. Frankly, I don't see the use in spending a lot of money for such things.

The important thing is to teach the children about what takes place after death. "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: so Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Heb. 9:27, 28).

The child of God knows that as soon as he dies (sleeping in the Lord) he goes to be with the Lord. "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you" (Phil. 1:21-24).

The grave is only the resting place for the body, the person himself has gone on somewhere else.

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"...She goeth to the grave to weep there" (John 11:31).

Now we know that when one dies, that the person who lived in that body moves out into the eternal world. We know that the body is just the house in which the spirit lived. We know that our loved one no longer lives in that body. However, Scripture repeatedly teaches the showing of proper respect to that dead body. That body should be properly and honorably buried. There should be a time of showing of our grief over the loss of a loved one. Cremation is most definitely heathen and anti-Scriptural. Now our grief should not be inordinate or carried to unlawful extremes.

The Bible does not discuss in anyway the matter of putting flowers on graves. I certainly will not condemn what the Bible does not condemn. I do not know where the custom started. If it did start with the heathen, there is still nothing in the Bible that condemns it. We do not

automatically condemn things because of who started them. We must have a Biblical basis for our beliefs and practices. The Bible does not teach that we should put flowers on graves. So this is a matter that is indifferent as far as the Bible is concerned, and one is at liberty to do as one pleases in the matter without being condemned for either practice.

Personally, I am in favor of occasionally putting flowers on the grave of a loved one. Let others do as they desire. Also, the matter of taking a young child to put flowers on a young mother's grave is not discussed in the Bible. We should not encourage an over-expression of grief in children, or an overlong time in excessive grief. But we should not encourage children to ignore the fact of death or pretend it does not exist. I think modern society greatly errs in the playing down of proper grief in respect to the death of a loved one. Grief is a proper attitude resulting from love for one who has passed away. We should not try to suppress it or hide it or pretend it does not exist. I would favor a moderate taking of the child to visit the grave when possible, and the putting of flowers thereupon.

THEORY

(Continued from Page 3)

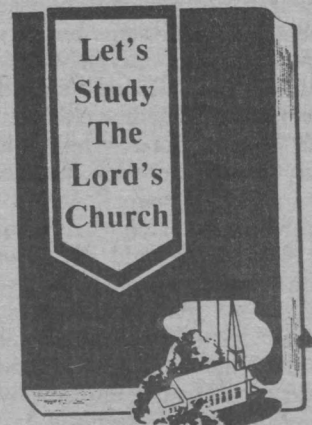
having the look of great age would be deceptive because God created all these things with age built in!!!

Can you not see by now that our Heavenly Father has no need for us to compromise with scientism on this gap theory and day/age theory?

It is my prayer that you will consider this epistle for what it is, a deep and solemn concern (in love) for some greatly revered preacher brethren and for the hundreds (perhaps thousands) wrongly taught by their writings! I believe that this teaching (gap theory) is serious and grievous error that needs to be rectified and rescinded. May God give us all grace and understanding in these matters is my hope and prayer.

Let's Study The Lord's Church

By E. G. COOK



by E. G. COOK

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(See Page 8 for Postage)

The material in this book was carried serially in TBE. We are very happy to offer it now in book form to our readers. Bro. Cook lays stress upon the local church to the exclusion of the universal, invisible church of Protestantism. This book contains the knowledge which a man has acquired through many years of study. It is a book which all lovers of church truth will want to purchase and read. This book is a paperback and contains 85 pages.

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APOSTLES

(Continued from Page 1)

"Baptism is an essential part of salvation" that your plight is that of the Roman Catholics and Protestants, and most all other religious groups in our world today. If you believe, as S.R. Hanby, that "speaking in other tongues" is essential to "put anyone into the Kingdom of God," then your spiritual condition is doubly perilous and extremely piteous. Should you believe, as Hanby, that the Church was established on Pentecost, then you will have nothing but trouble with "upon this Rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" and "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized (immersed) and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

The whole of the book of Galatians puts the lie to the teachings of any one who would attempt to add anything to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Herein, the apostle declares, "If any man preach any other gospel unto you then that ye have received, let him be accursed." With equal vigor, as we have noted before, He also says, "I do not frustrate the grace of God; for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."

In two other places, He draws the line rather sharply regarding the Gospel. In one, he says, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." In the other we find, "Moreover brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures..."

In their depravity, men may attempt to come with their doctrines concerning "grace" plus something else, but they must do so to their own eternal peril or the eternal peril of others, if they, themselves, are actually saved. In another word, and in another place, I go into great detail to demonstrate that,

The law cannot save!
Water cannot save!
Prayers cannot save!
Rituals cannot save!
Mary cannot save!
The "saints" cannot save!
Marriage cannot save!
Last rites cannot save!
Good words cannot save!
Good works cannot save!
Right words cannot save!
Lord's Supper cannot save!
The Mass cannot save!
Good attitudes cannot save!
Right attitudes cannot save!
Wisdom cannot save!
Knowledge cannot save!
Tongues cannot save!
Repentance cannot save!
"Baptism" cannot save!
Women cannot save!
Men cannot save!
The Church cannot save!
Preachers cannot save!
Pastors cannot save!

It is highly probable that we could go on and on with what we have been noting, but if the

message is not yet clear, then it is likely that further words would do very little good. The thing to which we speak, however, is that salvation from beginning to end is wholly of Christ, and it is wholly with His blood that our redemption is effected. On one occasion, you may remember, Peter took issue with this truth. The response of Jesus was definitive and it was quick, "Get thee behind me Satan; thou art an offence unto me; for thou savorest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."

Throughout my life, I have praised the Lord that my first two messages that were written and printed were "Faith in God's Word" and "The Theme of All Scripture." In both, God enabled me to emphasize and reemphasize the Death, the Burial, and the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the days of Adam unto now as the only Gospel, and the only means of salvation which has ever been afforded men.

All of the religious or irreligious efforts to which men, in their depravity, might appeal as a "means of salvation" or as being "helpful to salvation" are devices of the Devil who is ever present with this "Yea, hath God said?" Likewise, all things which men have done or can do were done before Jesus Came. But none of these efforts and none of these things could save. Only "The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" who died on Calvary's Cross, and who is presented eternally as "The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" can save.

There is no other one and there is no other way. God specified this true most definitively in, "Be it known unto you all and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Jesus makes this truth so plain that none should ever be perplexed or stumble in the way, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

I would not wish for any better way to point you to the truth. The Lord was content to use words. He was satisfied that such were sufficiently adequate for the "Rich Man's" five brothers. I, too, am content with words, though I sometimes wish that I might speak more effectually or write more effectually. From your perspective, they may seem somewhat "judgmental" as I have brought you to a consciousness of the error of your ways while speaking of some others. That, dear lady, is the Spirit of God working in your heart.

There was a purpose in your writing, and I would hope that there is a purpose in my response for I do not often write so extensively. Hopefully, I have helped to alert you to the truth of the Scriptures thereby. You apparently have been with the Pentecostals for some 12 years. Perhaps, it is time for you to renew your covenant with the Lord — that "first love" which is spoken of in the book of Revelation — and to give your life in faithfulness the rest of the

way rather than walking in the follies of the Piteous Pentecostals.

In your letter, you made several remarks about "the healing" that Kathryn Kuhlman supposedly accomplished, or as you said, "Jesus accomplished through her." As to her "healing," I do not have any qualms whatever of calling it fantasy and fraud. When did Kathryn Kuhlman or even Aimee Semple, or any other such supposed "healer" ever give a one-legged man a new one. Even more, when did one of these supposed "healers" ever give a quadra-am-putee new arms and legs?

When I was in the service, we had a very handsome and well-built young man who had fallen on a grenade in order to save some of his buddies. His feet were gone and parts of his legs. His hands were gone and parts of his arms. He went through many surgeries. He had much of his stomach blown away, too. Later, when he was in one of the very sophisticated General Hospitals here in the states and was being fitted with prostheses, I had occasion to see him go through some of his rehabilitation. Though his future was rather dark, he had a good attitude about it all.

The man who assisted President Carter as the head of the Veterans Administration was in a somewhat similar condition. Why did not Ruth Carter Stapleton utilize her "healing powers" to give him new legs and new arms. Why did not Oral Roberts, or Jimmy Swaggart, or Kenneth Copeland, or Shamback, or Osteen, or Kathryn Kuhlman, et. al., ad infinitum, take time out from their busy schedules of "Healing Shows" which they put on all over the country and sometimes around the world and go to Washington, D.C., and arrange to "get this man out of his wheel chair" and "back on his feet?"

I'll not even bother to answer the question for you. For if you do not know the answer then it is highly probable that there is not much that anyone will ever be able to do for you in the way of providing you with Scriptural instruction. Dear Lady, these "Pentecostal Healers," whatever their names may be, are frauds of the rankest sort. I have no doubt whatever that every single one of them will one day hear the Lord declare, "Depart from me, ye that work iniquity, I never knew you."

When I was returning from East Texas recently, I was tuned to one of the so-called religious stations — really, "The New Babylon," of which I may write one day — and a "huffing and a puffing" Pentecostal from California, he said, came on. He told how he had recently preached so many times in one day that some of the brethren, as he spoke of them, had to "carry" him to his motel room because he was so exhausted. He was using this "busyness" to convince those who could not become "missionaries" that he would "go for them." He said that he was called to Japan, but that he did not have enough funds yet to permit him to go.

Before he finished his "ranting" and his "raving" — and it was that — he went into considerable detail as to why the folk could trust him, though they could not always trust all Pentecostal preachers. He explained that, as a result of his ministry, people had been "healed" of cancer, deafness — at least they were hearing better,

tuberculosis, allergies, and on and on. In not one instance, did he speak of giving a person a new hand, a new foot, or some burn victim a new skin.

This reminds me of that piteous man who has appeared on the so-called "700 Club" and "PTL Club"! His face and his body are twisted horribly with scar tissue. The promoters of these clubs have made merchandise of him and had him explain how "God healed him." People in the audiences respond with their "ooh's" and their "aah's," at the proper times, of course.

Dear Lady, if Jesus had healed this man, it would not have been a half-way healing, believe me. I believe that when that one held forth his hand at the command of Jesus, it was truly made whole. That is, he had all five fingers and they were functional. When Peter took the man who had been "lame from his mother's womb" by the hand and "lifted him up; immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking and leaping, and praising God." Too, when the man of Lystra who had been "a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked" heard Paul say, "Stand upright on thy feet" that immediately "He leaped and walked."

In conclusion, let me say that I have not written thus to overwhelm you with words. I had much more which I have not put in the typed copy. My attempt to overwhelm you with words would accomplish nothing for you or for me.

I have written in such detail, I believe, because the Lord has burdened me for your life. It may be that you are perplexed and mixed-up at the present, but, if you are actually saved, there is much potential for good — not to usurp authority over the men, but to be a humble servant of the Lord at home and in some little New Testament Baptist Church. And if you were saved some 17 years ago, Dear Lady, you are still saved and just as much saved as then. Throughout this time that you have been with the Pentecostals, you have lost your rewards. Yet, so long as there is life, there is hope that you may once again be faithful to the Lord and faithful for the Lord.

If you can comprehend the nature of the heresy and the blasphemy in which you are involved, fear will strike your heart. And God explains for us that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." If you can come to such a consciousness, you will have no trouble understanding the word, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?... Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

Again, I thank you for writing.

By now, I would hope that you are aware that "The Apostles' Doctrine" which S.R. Hanby penned and which the Pentecostal Publishing House

printed is "Devil Doctrine." It relates to "Yea, hath God said?" — not to the Scriptural doctrine of the Apostles. And should you actually be saved, you can now know that "Many deceivers are entered into the world," who transgress "and abide not in the doctrine of Christ." Therefore, it is decision time, and, again, it is by the Word, "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward."

I pray you might walk in the truth.

Yours to His Praise,
Raymond A. Waugh, Sr.

PURPOSE

(Continued from Page 1)

has shown me. That you might study and ponder this article with your Bible open, your mind alert, your spirit teachable, and your future to a greater promise, and praise to Him because of it; and then our purpose has been accomplished through His church here, because He has gotten glory in the church.

Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry instituted His church. He did so for some purpose, or should we say purposes. God has not walked away from this earth for 1900 plus years to let things go as man wants. Until God again returns to work through the Jew, "and the time of the Gentile be fulfilled," He is working, and has been working, through His church. As God met Israel in the tabernacle and later, in the temple, so lo! these past 1900 plus years He has been meeting to work through His church. (We hope that by now — in accord with the Bible and our previous articles that you realize when we refer to church, we are referring to that body of called-out baptized believers, organized to carry out the ordinances as He set them in His EKKLESIA). Here are some of the major purposes of the New Testament Church.

I. To Constitute a Dwelling Place for God: "In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Eph. 2:22). The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob has not abandoned a place to meet with His chosen in this day, anymore than He abandoned the meeting place of the tabernacle and later, the temple. The place He meets to do His work is in His church. It is not a church unless they are assembled. the purpose to assembled. The purpose to church is to assemble and when "Ekklesia" there. The verse says, "Builded together," and the previous verse (21) says, "framed together" and "holy temple" and "building," and verse 20 talks of "the foundation." It is not speaking of an individual's body, as in Corinthians, but as His church. Then God's Word says in our verse, that we are builded together "FOR" an habitation of God. Habitation means dwelling place.

II. To Bear Witness unto the Truth: "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15).

This is one of the great verses
(Continued on Page 6 Column 1)

PURPOSE

(Continued from Page 5)

of Scripture that proves that "the church of God" is "the house of God" and that as such it is the place where God's man, brings God's message to God's people, in God's house on God's day. It is not as the hounds, hollers, and hypocrites would like to say that they are as close to God in a fishing boat, hunting party, hiking trip, or football game, as they are at one of His houses. Things are usually too hot for their comfort at the church house — so they patronize the God of the flesh and the god of this world." (II Cor. 4:4). The lonely voice of youth may cry, "Where is truth?" as if it could not be found, but totally depraved man who abhors and wants not "truth," will not seek, "the church of the living God the pillar and ground of the truth."

The "pillar" is the supporter. The "ground" is the foundation. God's EKKLESIAS are the upholders and bulwark contenders for and of "THE TRUTH." When you find the truths of the Bible contended for, that is, all the truths contended for — it won't be in a "Christian" summer ranch. It won't be in a "Christian" college, it won't be in an ecumenical council, organized fellowship, or convention. It won't be in these non-or inter-denominational Bible churches. It will be where God has purposed to set the "TRUTH" for these past 1900 plus years — namely "The house of God which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

III. To Make Manifold the Wisdom of God: "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God" (Eph. 3:10).

The things of heaven were intended to be made known, in God's proper and purposed time, to some of the men on this earth. Our verse says it was to be known by the church. God purposed His church as a place to make manifold those things of Him in heaven. The learning of God's things and eternal things are done so in His church.

IV. To Bring Eternal Glory to God: "Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end" (Eph. 3:21).

God's purpose of having started a church and promising it continual perpetuity, is that He determined to get glory in it. When the church services start, the hymns and songs of praise give glory to the Lord Jesus Christ and the God of Heaven. We know that "the wicked were made for the day of destruction," and that God will get glory when sentencing a hell-deserving sinner to the lake of fire; but that is the justice side that God will get glory for. His church is established that "in all things He might have the preeminence." Christians who do not attend all the services in the house of God, are the same as saying: God needs only to get glory and glorified once this week. Individual prayer, praise, and worship is fine — but that is not where the bible says that God's glory is to be had; rather, "unto Him be glory in the church."

When a baptism is performed — it gives God glory. It cannot, nor is not, baptism unless done "in the church." For to His church only was given this authority. When His supper is held and the wine and unleavened bread are taken by His obedient; then God gets "glory in the church," for the church only were the ordinances emplaced.

V. To Edify its Members:

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:11 & 12).

God's church is the place of instruction for the saved. God has set pastors and teachers in His church for the purpose of teaching, leading, instructing, reproving, rebuking and exhorting His churches. Our verse says, "For the perfecting of the saints..." The reason God has His church here is to bring the saints unto perfecting by the teaching and alike of the pastors that He has set in the church. If God's church is "the pillar and ground of the truth" and it is; then it is not man but God who sets the teachings (through His pastors and teachers) in His church, so that it will continue on being — "the pillar and ground of the truth." Those instructed outside His church, invariably are instructed in heretical teachings not held to by the churches of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is for this cause that our church will not allow, Bible classes to be taught to our members in by the way places, without the church and pastor knowing about it, and what is being taught.

VI. To Discipline its Members:

"And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican" (Matt. 18:17).

Christ placed the authority to exercise discipline in the church. Today there is little or no church disciplining for fear of "running off" the little rebels, or that they go to another place. However, no true New Testament church will admit those who are under disciplinary action of another church. Those who have been "loosed" from a church and are under the "Ban" will be likewise in such condition before the judgment regardless of how many societies (so called churches) that a disciplined member may fratronize or commit spiritual fornication with. We hold as do all true New Testament churches that to patronize those man-made institutions called churches is spiritual fornication.

VII. To Administer the Ordinances.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the son, and of the Holy Ghost:" (Matt. 28:19).

A. In other articles we have listed the necessary requirements for scriptural baptism. One of those is a proper authority. There is no other authority on this earth with proper credentials to baptize the converts of our Lord Jesus Christ, but the church that He gave the command and commission to emerse His followers.

B. The Lord's supper is a church ordinance. It has been set in the church and the church only has the authority to administer it. It is to be taken by



QUESTION:— Who said that God would hiss for a fly and a bee?

ANSWER:—Isaiah, Isaiah 7:18 — "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall hiss for the fly that is in the uttermost part of the rivers of Egypt, and for the bee that is in the land of Assyria."

those who are baptized. It is "The Lord's" supper not ours, and His instructions are plain in Matthew 26, I Corinthians 11, and elsewhere.

VIII. To Evangelize the World:

The church is commanded to "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mk. 16:15).

There has never been a greater commission, for it is unending. This mission is not committed to individual free-lance work — for their gospel is a free-will gospel or "another gospel" than that of I Cor. 15:1-4 which says, "Christ died for OUR sins" not "your" sins.

Conclusion: These are some of the reasons why God through Christ has instituted His church. Why not sit down and "search the scriptures daily to see rather these things be so." (Acts 17:11); asking God for a teachable spirit. If God's work can be done outside a local, visible, body of baptized believers then it was of little sense for our Lord Jesus Christ to say, "I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH" (Matt. 16:18).

AGREEING

(Continued from Page 1)

case, better they left.

Generally we have a tendency to be rather harsh and uncharitable towards those who have found reason to depart our midst — while it might just behoove us to temper our own judgment with an attempt at some understanding and compassionate reasoning.

Inasmuch as you and I were both in Adam's loins, with the flesh yet as large and active as can be, and with every two Baptists having three opinions, we may be prone to differ, and that strongly.

Remember that the contention was "sharp" between Paul and Barnabas and they did depart asunder (Acts 15:39). And a Sovereign Lord used both of them, in separate activities, to spread the gospel. Remember, also, that a careful reading of Paul's epistles at a later date do seem to indicate that he felt he had acted hastily, or at least, he proved to have a forgiving spirit.

At times there are those who decide that they cannot accept and approve of the preaching of the absolute Sovereignty of God — hence their departure over irresistible grace or reprobation. Quite often the issue is pre, A, or post-millennialism, which has and is proving to be a formidable culprit in the Baptist assemblies. In fact, I have some acquaintances in the Baptist ranks who hold that a person has never been quickened by the

Spirit and saved by the grace of our precious Lord, so long as they fail to adhere to pre-mil and pre-trib doctrine. I do not suggest weakening our own convictions on these matters, but I do hold that even inadvertently, we might be waging a fight against one of our Father's elect children, even our own blood-bought brother, if and when we strive against such a one. It is yet an unassailable truth that man is saved through simple faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that faith itself being a gift from God — while we being in this fleshly tabernacle are prone to differ — sometimes even sharply. In this regard I am made to recall that John wished to deny one whom he saw casting out devils, because "he followeth not with us." Jesus immediately but mildly rebuked John and said unto him, "Forbid him not" (Luke 9:50).

I do not feel that I am twisting or warping the Scriptures when I see a lesson also in the last words of Jesus to Peter. Jesus had just taught Peter the meaning of a more perfect love and of yieldedness and obe-

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SANCTIFIED

(Continued from Page 1)

tified." This which is supposed to eradicate the old Adam nature, rendering one sinless. There are several things wrong with this, as follows:

1. The process. Where in the Bible is one told to go to an "altar" and get shouted over, beaten on the back and prayed and agonized into perfection? The answer is, there are no Scriptural directions of that sort whatsoever.

2. The definition of sanctification is wrong. We read in the Scriptures about places and things being sanctified. Things about the tabernacle were "sanctified." Mt. Sinai at the time of God's appearing to Moses, was sanctified. A mountain or an object has no moral quality, and cannot be rendered sinless. Jesus said in John 17:19, "I sanctify myself." Does that mean that He became sinless? No, for He was already sinless.

3. The results of sanctification, as held by the holiness people is wrong. Sanctification does not render them sinless, as is evidenced by their lives which are manifestly not sinless.

WHAT DOES SANCTIFICATION MEAN?

Basically, it means to be "set apart." A church house is sanctified, or set apart and dedicated to the Lord as a place of worship. A room in your house may

be sanctified or set apart as a place to eat — a dining room. Some people are sanctified, or set apart to the service of the Devil. The word can have a bad as well as a good use. Religiously, we are to be sanctified or set apart as belonging to the Lord. Consecrated, devoted Christians are sanctified people. Not sinless, not perfect — but persons who are trying to live for the Lord.

THE GREAT SANCTIFICATION

When one as a lost sinner, receives Jesus as Saviour, appropriating the merits of His shed blood by faith, he is sanctified or set apart as God's property once and for all. (Hebrews 10:10, "We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.") This sanctification is immediate and final. One belongs to the Lord as His property from that time forth, which precludes the possibility of "falling from grace." This sanctification is not through some "altar work" or praying or agonizing. It is through the blood of Christ, the merits of which are simply appropriated by faith.

THAT SINLESS PERFECTION

IS NOT TRUE IS MADE PLAIN BY SEVERAL THINGS

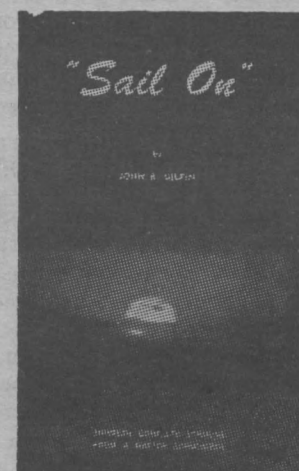
1. The model prayer. Jesus taught His disciples to pray - gave them a model to go by, and the model recognizes continuous trespassing against God. "Forgive us our trespasses... forgive us our debts... forgive us our sins..." such praying would not be necessary if one could reach a perfect state.

2. The chastening of the Lord. (See Hebrews 12:5-8). The Scriptures declare that if one be without chastisement, he is illegitimate — not a child of God at all. But God would not chastize a child of His for living perfectly! The doctrine of chastening is based upon the realization that every child of God sins.

3. The attitude of some of the greatest of Christians. Who ever lived a more useful, sacrificial life than did the Apostle Paul. Had he reached perfection? Let us read his own words. (See Philippians 3:12-14). Had Paul been perfect, he would have already reached the goal, but he tells us that he was "pressing toward the mark..."

4. Human observation and experience. We know that the old Adam has not been removed from us, and we observe from the actions of others that they, too, still have the old Adam nature. Moreover, the Scrip-

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"WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE RELIGIOUS WORLD TODAY"

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (EP)—Garner Ted Armstrong says he is not bitter about his 1978 excommunication from his father's Worldwide Church of God. But the emotional wounds left by their break do not seem to have healed.

Mr. Armstrong, who founded the Church of God International in Tyler, Texas, soon after the split, was in Kansas City July 10 to speak to part of his congregation. His sermon was sprinkled with subtle and not-so-subtle references to his father, Herbert W. Armstrong. And he spent the better part of an hour-long interview Saturday morning explaining his side of the dispute.

"It is a shame par excellence for a father to throw his son to the dogs and then to stick to the decision," Mr. Armstrong said. "He refuses to make any overture to me." He said the elder Armstrong has spurned his repeated requests to re-establish a family relationship.

Mr. Armstrong said their difficulties began when his father decided to marry a woman 48 years his junior. The son thought the marriage would be bad for the church's image because the woman was a divorcee and the elder Mr. Armstrong had been "tyrannically opposed" to divorce.

Arguments followed over the tangled finances of the secretive church, which then took in about \$70 million a year. Garner Ted Armstrong had a falling out with the church's treasurer. And he was accused of misusing church funds.

After several disputes with his father, all followed by reconciliations, Mr. Armstrong said, he got word that his father had removed him from all positions of authority within the church. Mr. Armstrong was also barred from giving the daily radio and weekly television broadcasts that had made him an internationally known figure. "This time I just let it stand," he said. "There was a power play, it was a political struggle, and I was had."

When Mr. Armstrong founded his own church, disenchanted Worldwide Church members followed. The church membership stands at about 5,000, most of whom once belonged to the Worldwide Church.

JASPER, Ark. (EP)—If Emory Mayo Lamb is correct, God is alive and well and living under a tin roof near this Ozarks mountain town 70 miles south of the Missouri border.

"I am the Messiah," Mr. Lamb said, strolling down the town's main street while a band of children followed and women stared from the courthouse steps.

"I am the Godman," said Mr. Lamb, a man with a salt-and-pepper beard who wears a denim motorcycle jacket. "Everything is embodied in the father," he continued, drawing on a Camel cigarette. "The father of all of us lives within me."

It is Mr. Lamb's fervent belief, most townspeople say, that led to the tragic murder-suicide July 3 of two of his most devoted followers. "He's certainly not Jesus Christ," said John White, a burly service sta-

tion owner. "He's probably more like the devil himself."

Despite the town's cynicism, Keith Haigler, 26, reverently believed that Mr. Lamb was the Messiah. So did his 24-year-old wife, Katie. It was their unmov- ing faith that led to their personal apocalypse.

After hijacking a Trailways bus with 16 passengers aboard, the Haiglers held police marksmen at bay for almost four hours, saying they wanted to die to fulfill a biblical prophecy, the couple exchanged fire with the police. Both were hit by shots in the shoulder. After that, Mrs. Haigler turned her gun to her husband, fatally shooting him in the face, then she killed herself.

"It was the thought within them," said Mr. Lamb, who refused numerous requests to go to the scene of the shooting. "It was the will of the father."

Angry townspeople don't see it that way. "They probably would be alive if this self-proclaimed Messiah had gone to that bus," said John Hofheimer, editor of the weekly Newton County Times. The violence has left Jasper, a town of about 400 people, a hamlet of confusion.

Through the controversy, Mr. Lamb, 53, smiles weakly and sits in his ramshackle house while putting his trust in a magical character he calls Fou. "Fou, Fou, Fou," he said while standing in line at a bank to cash a \$15 check. "Everything is Fou."

Mr. Lamb said the flickering image of Fou came to him on the Day of Infamy in 1977. He was standing in his grocery store in rural Virginia when the apparition of a man with a long, gray beard appeared from under the counter, he said. "Say, 'Fou was here,'" Mr. Lamb quoted the ghost as saying. After the image faded, Mr. Lamb spray painted the side of his store with the chant: "Fou was here."

"I've been searching for the meaning of Fou ever since," said Mr. Lamb, whose denim suit is littered with gold-plated badges bearing the word Fou.

Mr. Lamb's hunt for the elusive Fou and his search for peace of mind brought him to this Ozarks community, where he opened another grocery store. During his moments of contemplation, Mr. Lamb decided that Fou meant "father of us." "We'd go to the store, and he'd pass out Fou buttons and Fou matches," said Beverly Chastine, a former customer.

Mr. Lamb took Fou nationwide, starting the Foundation of Ubiquity. Through a newsletter and advertisements in motorcycle magazines, he solicited about 130 members.

But only Mr. Lamb, his family and the Haiglers lived in Jasper.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—After 156 years of publication, the Church Herald of Grand Rapids, Mich., may soon be writing its own obituary. It survived the Great Depression, but the biweekly magazine of the Reformed church in America won't survive another increase according to a July 7 article by David Hoffman in the Washington Post.

In January, the cost of mailing one edition of the Church

Herald to its 67,000 readers went up 110 percent, from \$2,250 to \$4,650. Now Congress has decided to raise it even higher, and the nation's religious publishers, along with thousands of other nonprofit organizations, are bracing for another round of sharply increased postal costs that is likely to put some out of existence. The Church Herald is considered one of the nation's oldest religious periodicals, tracing its origins back to Henry Hudson and the Dutch Reformed Church. But the current editor, John Stapert, said the publication probably will fold in October unless Congress scales back the increase.

The postal rate pinch is also squeezing many charitable and voluntary organizations that rely heavily on the mails for fund raising. The irony is that it will weaken the same groups that President Reagan is depending on to fill the gap left by his cuts in social programs.

For years, Congress set aside a subsidy that allowed nonprofit groups to mail in bulk at a reduced rate. The idea was that their newsletters, fund-raising appeals and publications served the public good, although critics had long contended the subsidy was unfair to taxpayers and other postal users. In 1970, Congress approved a 16-year phase-out of the subsidy, but that schedule, which had six years left, has been abandoned.

Now, in the fervor to reduce large prospective deficits in the first budget resolution, Congress has ordered another slash in the subsidy, from \$619 million this year to \$400 million next year, in addition to the cuts made last year. This means another rate increase would come in October, raising the price of third-class bulk mail for a non-profit group from 5.9 cents per piece to 7.9 cents. Mailing the same letter would have cost only 3.8 cents last January.

The nonprofit groups are now fighting back, lobbying the congressional appropriations committees to increase the subsidy. Rep. William D. Ford (D-Mich.), chairman of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee, said the \$400 million for next year is "so small and so inadequate as to be the equivalent of tossing a bone to a stray dog." (The subsidy was eliminated in the Republican budget resolution that first passed the House, but \$400 million was restored in conference.)

Stapert, editor of the Church Herald, acknowledged that religious, charitable and voluntary groups would have to accept higher postal costs in a time of lean federal budgets. But, he protested, "We can't allow the nation to put all of its culture on a profit-making bottom line."

FORT WORTH (EP)—Hysterical screams shattered Rod Minor's quiet lunch and led him on a desperate chase through Fort Worth alleys and back lots one recent afternoon.

Drawn across the alley by the screams, Minor, a December graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, found a frantic woman, pointing down the alley. "He attacked me and took my purse," she screamed. Minor looked and saw a man disappearing around the corner with the woman's purse and gave chase.

Minor climbed fences, cut through back lots and ran across parking lots for several blocks before closing to within a few

paces of the man. Minor told him to drop the purse, which he later learned contained \$1,100. The thief threw the purse and Minor relayed it back to the woman and continued the chase. Two friends from the funeral home where Minor works closed at different angles. He finally caught the thief, wrestled him to the ground and held him, with the others, until police came.

"It was more instinct than anything," Minor said. "The woman was hysterical. I thought the man had worked her over. The only thing to do was run him down. I would have appreciated somebody else doing the same thing for my wife."

Minor learned the next day, when the FBI telephoned him, that the man was on federal parole after serving time in prison for attempted murder, armed robbery and assault.

DETROIT (EP)—A minister in suburban Madison Heights found a man skinny dipping in the church baptismal.

Mr. Tony Kinsler, assistant pastor at the Apostolic Church, said he found a nude man immersed in the baptismal font when he arrived to prepare for evening services July 9.

Kinsler, noticing the church had been stripped of expensive sound equipment and musical instruments, slipped out and called police. Police said they expected to charge the 24-year-old intruder with breaking and entering.

DALLAS (EP)—A civil lawsuit against the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, its president and his wife, Paige and Dorothy Patterson, has been dismissed two days after it was filed.

The suit was described as "utterly without foundation" by T.A. Patterson, former executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and father of Paige Patterson. An attorney representing the estate of Nelson Farry of Dallas, described the suit as "one that should never have been filed." I had asked that property transferred to the CCBS shortly before Farry's death in 1980 be returned to Mrs. Farry. Some 30 commercial and residential lots, including the Farry's home in the fashionable Dallas suburb of Highland Park, were involved.

Jack Brady, attorney for the CCBC, told the Dallas Morning News July 7, after the suit was filed that he viewed the move as a legal safeguard to protect Mrs. Farry since the two year statute of limitations was running out and that the whole question was "near settlement."

The suit, which charged Patterson and his wife used intimidation and misrepresentation to convince the Farry's to give the property to CCBS, was "just a pleading with some lawyer's rhetoric," Pulley explained. The Patterson's were in the Middle East and unavailable for comment when the suit was filed. T.A. Patterson described the whole idea of the suit as "absurd." "Paige and Dorothy have known Mr. and Mrs. Farry for years and have taken care of them and taken them places and have taken care of Mrs. Farry since her husband's death," he said.

UPPSALA, Sweden (EP)—The Swedish Lausanne Committee, the national arm of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, is plac-

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ing evangelization information and tools in the hands of ministers and other church workers in both the state church and the free churches, according to Dr. Agne Nordlander, the Committee's Chairman.

Nordlander, who is principal of Johannelunds Theologiska Institute here, stated that there was a new awareness in the churches of the need for personal evangelism. He pointed out that the Church of Sweden, the state church, was increasingly involved in evangelistic initiatives. The church's department of evangelism, he added, was providing leadership and resources, and one diocese had adapted a Campus Crusade for Christ program for its use.

Nordlander pointed out that about six percent of Sweden's eight million people attended church on a weekly basis. Over ninety percent of the population were affiliated with the Church of Sweden. In addition, about 130,000 were Roman Catholic, 100,000 were Pentecostals, 80,000 belonged to the Swedish Covenant Church, and 80,000 were Orthodox Church members.

SANCTIFIED

(Continued from Page 6)

tures teach the continuous conflict of the two natures — the nature of the flesh and the nature of the Spirit. (See Romans 7). If the old Adam were eradicated, then there could be no conflict.

What victory we have must be obtained, not through eradication, but through feeding the spiritual part, and starving the old Adam nature.

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AGREEING

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dience. "And when He had spoken this, He said unto Peter, Follow me." My favorite of all the apostles, that brash and impetuous and hasty Peter immediately reverted to a portion of his old nature and demanded of our Lord as to what "this man," another disciple, was required to do (John 21:21). You know the story, in our own blunt language we see it as: "That is none of your affair, YOU follow me." An omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient and altogether Sovereign Lord would direct His creatures according to His own will and good pleasure.

Yet another biblical truth which might, at least in a sense, prove to be relevant and pertinent here is found in the record of the division of the lands among all the various tribes which our Lord had led out of Egypt, tribes which eventually found their way eastward across Jordan into Canaan. The children of the tribe of Gad and of Reuben and half of the tribe of Manasseh had made a prior agreement with Moses as to where they would settle and where their inheritance would be. They were permitted to settle on the west bank of the Jordan, providing the able-bodied fighting men first would accompany all the rest in the task of subduing and securing the Ca-

naan land from the nations which dwelt there. Gad, Reuben and Manasseh performed their part of the agreement and when the Israelites found rest from their warfare, then Joshua permitted them to partake of the rich spoils of conquest and to carry them back across the Jordan to that land which they had preferred. When the Israelites were not murmuring and whoring after false gods they could be very devout indeed — and so Joshua and his followers had built a tabernacle and established an "official" altar at which to do sacrifice and homage to our Lord.

When the children of Gad, Reuben and Manasseh departed the Canaan land they naturally had put quite a geographical distance between themselves and that one altar in Canaan, so they proceeded very shortly to erect themselves another altar in their own lands on the west side of Jordan. "And when the children of Israel heard of it, the whole of the congregation of the children of Israel gathered themselves together at Shiloh, to go up to war against them." Already, in their hearts and minds they were certain that those of Gad and company had departed from the faith and had rebelled and committed trespass against the Lord. So they began to act like Baptists, determining to make war and do grievous acts of hurt and violence — and this against

those who had only recently stood steadfast in war and strife with them. They said that if we fail to destroy those "heretics," then the Lord will be sure to visit a plague upon us as well. Apparently breathing fire, they proceeded to storm across the river to set the Gaddites right once and for all.

God met them coolly and calmly and told them that the Lord God of gods knows our hearts, and that we erected an altar so that our children on this side of Jordan would know and revere and worship the One True God.

The children of Gad could have reacted much like the average Baptist and told Phinehas that we paid our dues and now you have nothing to do with us. So you take your legalizing hosts and skeddadle back across the Jordan. Instead, the spokesman for the children of Gad more resembled a spirit-filled New Testament Christian when he explained that their move had made the Jordan a border between themselves and the altar of Canaan. Now they were quite removed and soon their children would be apt to say: "What have we to do with the Lord God of Israel" and would cease to fear the Lord. "Therefore, let us now prepare to build us an altar, not for an unacceptable burnt-offering nor sacrifice, but for a witness that we do the service of the Lord."

Herein is the key statement for all of us differing Baptists to make note of: "If we have built us an altar to turn from following the Lord, let the Lord Himself require it" (Joshua 22:23). My premise? Is not there an underlying danger of our becoming too preoccupied with that which is not altogether displeasing to our Lord?

I consider myself a thorough going Baptist, whole-heartedly embracing the concept of an absolutely Sovereign God. If and when properly authorized, organized and following New Testament guidelines, I feel that the Baptist assembly is the church which Jesus had in mind when He said that "upon this rock I will build my church." Personally, I would be a square peg in a round hole, should I attempt to have "church" fellowship in any of the denominational assemblies. However, even as a Bible-believing Baptist I yet see now this precious treasure as being in an earthen vessel — and I do not see the assembly as having a "corner on the market" of truth.

Should some depart and reject an admonition, given in love, and should such a one be ignoring the clear touching of God's Word, then let him be as Ephraim: "let him alone" (Hosea 4:17). There are times to "shake the dust off your feet against them."

However, we might do well to remember the advice which Jesus gave to His disciples: "be as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves" (Matt. 10:16) seeing as there are times when the words of the Pharisee, Gamaliel might just be the safest course of action. "For now I say unto you, refrain from these men and let them alone... lest haply ye be found to fight against God" (Acts 5:39). "The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether" (Psalm 19:9).

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