

The greatest sinners are those who feel sin least of all.

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### NOAH AND THE GREAT FLOOD

by Carl Barnette  
Ireland, West Virginia  
"And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh..." (Gen. 6:17. Read Genesis chapters 6-8).

Little is told us about the parentage of Noah, yet sufficient is revealed to indicate that he was the descendant of believing ancestors. Noah was the grandson of Methuselah, and the great grandson of Enoch who was translated to heaven. Noah's Father was Lamech, and we believe that his parents and grandparents were godly believers. Lamech names his son "Noah" saying, "This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands" (Gen. 5:29).

Now, knowing of Noah's believing ancestors, one might draw the conclusion that salvation is inherited from the seed of man. But, beloved, I say unto you that one's righteousness cannot be passed on from ancestors. Salvation does not come through man, but is the work of a sovereign God. Salvation is a gift of God bestowed upon a chosen people — chosen before the foundation of the world. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8). Verse 9 tells us that "it is not of works, lest any man should boast." In Genesis 6:8 we learn that "Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." Grace is the unmerited favor of God. Grace is the foundation of every life that is well pleasing to God. Grace is the source from which God gives every blessing we receive. Beloved, it was the grace of God and not the goodness (?) of Noah, that preserved him from a watery grave. God makes it clear that the righteousness of man cannot stand or be approved.

(Continued on Page 3 Column 2)

MISSIONARY

PREMILLENNIAL

BIBLICAL

BAPTISTIC

## The Baptist Examiner

Baptist Is Our Middle Name

Paid Circulation in All States and in Many Foreign Countries

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

VOL. 54, NO. 38

ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, NOVEMBER 20, 1982

WHOLE NUMBER 2394

### PROPER TRAINING FOR THE RACE

by Ray Brown  
Indore, W. Va.

Text: Hebrews 12:1-4, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not resisted unto blood, striving against sin."

Let's look now and put great weight to what Apostle Paul was saying in Hebrews 12. A lot of people say, "Well, maybe he wrote the book and maybe he didn't." I believe that he did. I don't have any problem believing it. There are too many places there that have Apostle Paul's writing. I believe that he wrote the book, and I believe to get the full impact of what Apostle Paul is saying here in

Hebrews 12, we need to read the last account and testimony of Apostle Paul while he was in prison.

In II Timothy 4, we find his farewell to the saints of God. I have been studying this over the past several weeks and have had a heavy heart about it. I also have been richly blessed by it; thinking how that one of these days the Lord Jesus Christ will come in the clouds of glory, and I'll be like Apostle Paul. I'll be great cloud of witnesses of the Lord Jesus Christ. I will be able to take my seat in the stands of the arena and be there and know that I have fought a good fight; that I went home to be with Jesus Christ and I believe, in the sense of the word, to be there as spectators of the saints of God that are struggling in the arena with Satan. I believe this is what Apostle Paul is saying.

Notice what he says in verse 6 of II Timothy 4: "I am ready," he said. This brings a great implication here of the anchoring of a ship; that the anchor has been lifted and pulled out of the water and the ship has been cast off and put to sail across the

blue waters. You've seen a ship as it sails, and after it gets so far out into the water all you can see is water. You can see the horizon, and the water and the sky seem to meet after several miles. This is the picture of a precious saint of God as he travels and as his anchor is lifted. He's going home to be loosened and to be set free of the environment of the body and his soul is set free and it is soaring out, you see, as a ship that is sailing on the ocean. This is what Apostle Paul is saying. "For I am now ready to be offered and the time of my departure is at hand" (II Timothy 4:6-7).

I imagine that when Paul was sitting in that old dungeon, that even as he penned these precious words down, that maybe he could hear the footsteps of the executioner coming to execute him and behead him there in that dark dungeon. But oh, what faith this man of God had!

Notice in verse 7, as we read in Paul's closing message, he joins the cloud of witnesses whose testimony leads one to (Continued on Page 5 Column 1)

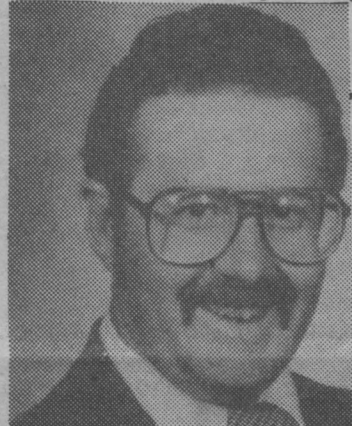
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### THE CURSE OF ARMINIANISM

by Sam Wilson  
Gladwin, Michigan

A man who called himself a Baptist once said, "Hell stands as a monument to the failure of a triune God to save those who are there. God tried, He did all He could and failed." Another preacher said, "God can not justly send a man to hell until He has done all in His power to



Sam Wilson

try and save him." Any system of Theology that would lead or permit a man to make such blasphemous statements is surely a curse. Similar statements to these are made in most pulpits

### CONFERENCE PROGRAM ON PAGE TWO

## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Joseph M. Wilson

### THE BEARS ARE COMING

The bears are coming! The bears are coming! Run for your life! Run for your soul! Run for eternity's sake! The bears are coming!

"And he went up from thence unto Bethel: and as he was going up by the way, there came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head. And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the Lord. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them" (II Kings 2:23-24).

Here is a remarkable incident in the Word of God. One from which we should learn many lessons. One that is little known, greatly ignored, and grossly mis-represented. Let us look at some things which preceded this event. The kingdom of Israel had been divided following the reign of Solomon. The northern

kingdom, in which Bethel was located, adopted a false religion under the curse of God. This kingdom never had a good king, never had a time of revival, went from bad to worse, and was carried away into captivity by the Assyrians. Before the event of my text, there had been seventy-five years of continued wickedness in Israel. Immediately preceding this event had been the terrible days of Ahab and Jezebel.

Now, what can we expect of children raised during and under such circumstances? No wonder they had no respect for God's man or for God's Word! When Mother and Dad are sorry, no-account, lazy and wicked persons, what will their children be? You men and women who curse, smoke, drink and live in other sins before your children. You men and women who are so rotten sorry that you lie in bed on Sunday, and will not get up and take your children to church.

You sorry rascals. You don't deserve the blessing of having little children. It would serve you right to have them taken from you. What do you expect of your children when you are what you are?

Prior to this event, God had blessed and used Elisha to His glory. Elisha had been called to follow Elijah in the prophetic ministry. He had been blessed with a time of fellowship and working with the great prophet. Upon Elijah's being raptured to glory, his mantle had fallen upon Elisha. God had testified to Elisha as His man by opening the river Jordan for him to go through on dry land, and by healing the bad waters of Jericho. Now when one is blessed by and used of the Lord, he can look out for the opposition of the devil and the persecution of men. This is what happened to Elisha.

Let us look awhile at the sin of these little children. It was (Continued on Page 2 Column 1)

in so-called churches every week. The devil has cursed this earth with this kind of preaching.

Before we examine in detail the curse of Arminianism, let us seek to define what we mean when we use this term. For years I heard Arminianism preached against, only to learn a few years ago that some of those who had preached so hard against it, now wanted it defined. I do want to state strongly that Arminianism is not weak sovereign grace. It, rather, is the direct opposite to grace. Let us lay the beliefs of Arminians and those who believe in sovereign grace side by side and compare them. Arminians say that man is not dead, but is just sick. They say that the final decision of salvation does not rest in the power of God, but in the free-will of man. Those who believe in sovereign grace say that man is dead in trespasses and sin; that he is unable to repent and believe of his own free-will. Arminianism teaches that God chooses to save man based on foreseen faith. Sovereign grace teaches that before the world, based on nothing but the love and will of God; God chose who would be saved and passed all (Continued on Page 6 Column 5)

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## The Baptist Examiner

THE BAPTIST PAPER FOR  
THE BAPTIST PEOPLE

JOSEPH M. WILSON, Editor  
JOHN R. GILPIN, JR., Asst. Editor

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## BEARS

(Continued from Page 1)

the sin of mocking a supposed  
providential defect in God's  
man. What a wicked sin! As a  
lad I learned from my Mother  
three things I have never forgot-  
ten. I praise the Lord for them.  
I learned to not make fun of a  
handicapped person, to respect  
a woman, and to respect the ag-  
ed. Surely, these are valuable  
lessons for anyone to learn, and  
to do differently is a terrible sin  
before God. Listen children,  
never mock a handicapped per-  
son. It is in the sovereignty of  
God that you are not in such a  
condition yourself. The Bible  
says, "Thou shalt rise up before  
the hoary head, and honour the  
face of the old man, and fear  
they God" (Lev. 19:32). Those  
who do not respect the aged  
show their lack of fear of God.

Their sin was a lack of respect  
for a man of God. It may have  
involved a mockery of the rap-  
ture of Elijah who had 'gone up'  
to glory. At any rate it showed  
that these children wanted to get  
rid of the preacher. They did  
not want to hear his rebuke of  
their sin and wickedness. They  
did not want to hear of the  
awful hell that awaited those  
who lived in sin and died  
without repentance. They did  
not want to hear of the one and  
only way of salvation from sin  
and from hell. Their sin was the  
sin of rejection and hatred of  
the Word of God. "Get out of  
here, preacher. We don't want  
to hear you preach to us. Go up,  
go up, you bald-headed  
preacher. We don't have time to  
listen to you." Oh, what a terri-  
ble sin when men, women and  
children have no time or respect  
for the Word of God! Such an  
attitude is evidence of the  
wickedness of the heart and a  
prophecy of an eternity in hell.

Now let us note the action of  
Elisha. "He turned back, and  
looked on them, and cursed  
them in the name of the Lord."  
It is not wrong for God's man to  
take offence at mistreatment.  
God's people have feelings, too.  
Now, assuredly, Elisha did not  
use bad language as we think of

the word 'curse' today. You dirty,  
low down, filthy talkers. You men  
and women that talk dirty and curse.  
You who break the third commandment.  
"Remember, the Lord will not  
hold him guiltless that taketh  
His name in vain." No! No!  
Elisha was a man of God. Men



Joe Wilson

of God do not talk that way. He  
did not curse as we use the  
word. What he did was to an-  
nounce to them the curse of the  
Lord upon such sin as theirs. He  
spoke in the name of the Lord.  
He did what I do when I tell the  
sinner that God's wrath is  
against their sins and that they  
are going to die and go to hell if  
they do not repent and trust  
Jesus Christ as Lord and  
Saviour.

This was not an example of a  
preacher getting angry. It was  
not a personal desire for evil  
upon his tormentors. It was not  
a personal vendetta on the part  
of Elisha. He was moved by the  
Spirit of God to pronounce a  
curse from God upon these little  
children. Elisha is not to be con-  
demned for this action. He was  
led of the Lord to do such. It  
was God who sent the bears,  
and not Elisha. God's people do  
not desire evil upon any man.  
God's people love their enemies  
and pray for those who  
despitefully use them. God's  
people do not wish eternal hell  
upon anyone. That lies in the  
hands of the Sovereign God of  
the Bible. I thank God I can say  
this for myself as well as others.  
There is not a man upon the  
earth that I cannot love, pray  
for, and wish God's very best  
upon him.

What happened following  
Elisha's action? God vindicated  
His man. God backed His man  
as always. Two she bears came  
out of the wood and tore forty-  
two of these wicked children.  
How horrible! See the children  
mocking God's man. See them  
laughing and running and urg-  
ing one another, and trying to  
outdo one another in their sin.  
See the bears coming. See the  
smile of the children turn to  
pale and ghastly fear. Hear the  
laughter and mockery become  
screams of terror. See the  
children running for their lives,  
trying to get away from the  
bears! Oh, learn a lesson, my  
friend! You who curse and lie,  
cheat, drink, live in sin, mock  
God's servants, and say you are  
not afraid to die and are not  
afraid of God. Your tune will  
change. Your laughter will turn  
into the screams of the doomed  
and damned in hell. You will be  
afraid when the time comes.  
Oh, I urge you to consider what  
lies at the end of a sinful and  
unrepentant life! An eternal  
hell! That is what lies ahead!

Some of the children are  
caught by the two bears. They  
are torn, ripped, and bitten and  
clawed by the two bears. How  
awful! But God did no wrong.  
He is sovereign in all things. Sin  
deserves and must be punished.  
Mother! Father! Come see your  
child's torn and bleeding body.  
The child you taught to sin has

been caught up with and  
punished for that sin. Don't you  
wish you had taken them to  
church? Don't you wish you had  
not cursed and lied and drank in  
their presence? Oh! When Mom  
and Dad and children meet in  
hell and curse one another and  
scream in the torments of hell!  
One day it will be too late to  
fulfill your responsibilities as  
parents. Your children will be  
ruined and wrecked by sin. You  
will have to bear your part of  
the responsibility and guilt. Yes,  
the bears are coming! The bears  
are coming!

Now, there are many objec-  
tions to this story, and many  
ways men seek to lessen the im-  
pact thereof. Some will blame  
Elisha for this, but it was a  
work of God. Some will say the  
word for children often refers to  
much older people than we  
think. But note that the children  
are referred to as "little chil-  
dren." Some will say that this  
is in the Old Testament, but the  
God of the Old Testament is the  
same God as of the New Testa-  
ment. The God of the New  
Testament hates sin and will  
punish sin the same as the God  
of the Old Testament. Many  
will just deny that the Bible is  
the Word of God. They just do  
not believe this is inspired of  
God. Poor ignorant, deceived  
and blinded souls. Friend, what  
you believe about the Bible does  
not change the fact. The Bible is  
the Word of God whether you  
like it or not, and whether you  
believe it or not. You never read  
the Bible. You don't care  
anything about the Bible. You  
do not own the God of the Bi-  
ble. Well, so what? That does  
not change anything. The God  
of the Bible is the God you will  
have to meet in judgment. The  
Bible of that God is the stan-  
dard by which you will be judg-  
ed. Men denying the Bible being  
the Word of God does not  
change the story of the bears  
and the little children.

Let us learn some lessons  
from this event of Old Testa-  
ment history. Let us learn that  
God observes the sins of all,  
even of little children. Listen  
friend: there's an eye watching  
you. Every day mind the course  
you pursue, for there's an all-  
seeing eye watching you. God  
observes all the deeds of all  
men. He sees you in your sin

(Continued on Page 3 Column 1)

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Elder Wayne Camp has ac-  
cepted a call from Grace Baptist  
Church of Denham Springs, La.  
to be her pastor. Let us pray for  
Elder Camp in this work, and  
for the church. Elder Jack  
Duplechain, formerly the pastor  
of this church, is now pastor of  
West Baptist Church in  
Oakdale, La.

\*\*\*

Elder Steven Hamilton is  
starting a work in Marshall,  
Michigan, under the authority  
of Zion Missionary Baptist  
Church of Taylor, Mich. where  
Elder Rule is pastor. Brother  
Hamilton is having meetings in  
his home at 16525 B Drive  
South, Marshall, Mich. 49068.  
They meet on Sunday at 10 a.m.  
for Sunday School, and at 11  
a.m. for Worship. Brother  
Hamilton's phone number is  
616-781-9662. Brother  
Hamilton is a personal friend.  
He is a very able preacher of the  
Word of God. Visit these ser-  
vices if you live in this area. Let  
us pray for this work.

### FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings, dear TBE reader. May God bless you. I ask again that  
you pray much for me in this great work to which He has called me.

**CONCERNING ANNOUNCEMENTS:** We are happy to use  
TBE for certain announcements. We are glad to mention available  
preachers. We are glad to mention churches without pastors. We  
are glad to announce special services of churches. But, But, But.  
We only want to do this for Sovereign Grace Landmark Baptist  
Churches and Preachers. We do not intend to make an-  
nouncements for any other sort. So, if you send us an announce-  
ment of such kind and if I do not know you, you must send with the  
announcement that you have the qualification mentioned above. I  
will take your word for this. If any preacher or church is advertised  
in this paper, and readers of the paper know that such does not fit  
the category described above, please let me know. I want to use  
TBE to encourage, unite, and publicize our kind of preachers and  
our kind of churches, but no other kind.

**Concerning supporting churches and their members receiving  
The Baptist Examiner.** Please note this: When a church supports  
TBE with regular monthly offerings, we are happy to send the  
members of said church the Baptist Examiner. But we cannot do  
this on a permanent basis without knowing that such are still  
members, and such churches are still supporting TBE. As of now  
we are sending TBE to such. We will do it like this in the future:  
Each supporting church must send us the names of their members  
whom they wish to receive TBE. We will put such on our mailing  
list for one year. At the end of that year, said church must again  
notify us of their members who are to continue receiving TBE. This  
must be done each year. I would suggest that said members be put  
by the church on a list to TBE to expire with the last issue each  
year. Then renew such a list each December. In doing this, please  
notify us of any who are already receiving TBE, so we will not  
duplicate any names. All subscribers receiving TBE with a CP or  
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dropped from our list with the last issue of January, 1983. Again,  
we appreciate the churches who support us. We want their  
members to receive the paper. But we must do it this way in the  
future. Any supporting churches may send subscriptions for others  
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### CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE CONFERENCE

Nov. 24th & 25th

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#### PROGRAM

Wednesday Afternoon ..... 3:00 p.m.

#### I THANK MY GOD

Owen Croy, Ashland, Kentucky

#### GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

Martin Holmes, Kenton, Ohio

#### WILL THERE EVER BE PEACE ON EARTH?

Ron Boswell, Hagerstown, Md.

Supper served at the parsonage

Wednesday night ..... 7:00 p.m.

#### THE GREATEST MIRACLE IN THE BOOK OF JONAH

Don Pennington, Warren, Ohio

#### WHO ARE THE OVERCOMERS IN REVELATIONS 2 & 3?

James Hobbs, McDermott, Ohio

#### THE INSPIRATION AND AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE

Oscar Mink, Mansfield, Ohio

Thursday Morning ..... 9:30 a.m.

#### THE ETERNAL AND ABSOLUTE PREDESTINATION OF ALL THINGS

E.G. Cook, Birmingham, Ala.

#### WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT IMPUTATION

Dan Phillips, Bristol, Tenn.

#### RUNNING WITHOUT A MESSAGE

David West, Charleston, S.C.

#### THE IMPECCABILITY OF JESUS CHRIST

Joe Wilson, Host Pastor

Lunch served at King's Table

Thursday Afternoon ..... 2:00 p.m.

#### IS IT WELL WITH THE FAMILY

Ken Leonard, Hagerstown, Md.

#### SATAN AND THE SAINT

Mike King, Toledo, Ohio

#### THE CHURCH: THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH

Don Prewitt, Toledo, Ohio

Thursday Evening ..... 5:00 p.m.

#### SOME THINGS WE ARE TO HATE

Ray Brown, Indore, W. Va.

#### SATAN AND THE SINNER

Sam Wilson, Gladwin, Mi.

#### WITNESSING FOR JESUS CHRIST

Fred Halliman, Missionary to New Guinea



## BEARS

(Continued from Page 2)

and your rebellion against His Word. He takes note and keeps a record of all you do. Let us learn that God hates sin. Yes! God hates sin. God does not change His standards with the changing standards of the world in which we live. He does not laugh or wink at sin. He never jokes about sin. He never makes light of sin. He never speaks well of it. Sin is that abominable thing which God hates.

We learn the lesson that God will punish sin. He may bear long with one's sin. It may seem that man is really going to get by with his sin. But not so, God will punish sin. Dear friend, do not presume on the long suffering of God. Do not imagine that because you have gotten by this long you will continue to get by. Then, let us learn of God's sovereign control over all things including the bears in the woods. The bears go where God orders them to go and do what He tells them to do. They had bothered no children before, so far as we know. They may have never come so close to town before. But the Lord spoke to them and sent them on a mission of judgment and they obeyed His voice.

Now, I have some good news. So far, the story has been dark and sad, but now let us change the story somewhat. Let me tell you that the Good Shepherd will deliver His chosen sheep from the hands of the bears. In First Samuel we have a story of an event in the life of David. He kept his father's sheep. A bear came out of the woods and took one of the sheep. David laid his life on the line, attacked and smote the bear and delivered the sheep. What a wonderful story! Now, David is a type of Jesus Christ. This is seen again and again in the Bible. David is a type of Christ in his time of rejection. He is a type of Christ in coming to the throne. He is a type of Christ in winning many great victories. Jesus Christ is now the rejected one, but He will come again, win great victories over all His enemies and reign on David's throne over all the world for a thousand years.

David is also a type of Christ as a shepherd. Jesus is the good shepherd of His sheep. There are a chosen flock of sheep. They were chosen from among fallen mankind by the Father. They are the elected and predestinated ones. They were given to Christ in the everlasting covenant of grace. They were given to Him that He might be a good shepherd unto them, that He might even die for them that they should be eternally saved. As David risked his own life for the sheep to deliver it from the bear, so Jesus Christ gave His own life on an old rugged cross, that He might deliver all His elected sheep from the judgment of God, even from the flames of eternal hell. Oh, my friend, there is only one shepherd who can save you from the bears. Flee to Him and be saved forevermore.

The bears are coming! The bears are coming! You will say, preacher, I have been sinning a long time and the bears have not gotter me yet. Well, it is not all over yet, dear friend. The bears are coming to get you. They will get you at God's predestinated time, and deliver your soul into the burning flames. The bears are on the way. they may be but a few steps, a few minutes away. Unless you are delivered by the good shepherd, the bears will surely get you, and you will die and go to hell forever. Oh!

*It is only the fear of God that can deliver us from the fear of man.*

Flee to the good shepherd, receive Him as your Lord and Saviour and be saved forevermore. Flee now! Flee today! You cannot whip the bears. Only Jesus Christ can deliver you.

I do praise my Lord Jesus Christ that He died in my place and delivered me from the bears of judgment. May the Lord bless you all!

## NOAH

(Continued from Page 1)

ed of by himself. God tells us in Isaiah 64:6 that "all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags."

In Genesis 6:7, God tells Noah that He is going to destroy man and beast from the face of the earth. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. It seems that Noah was a lily among the thorns. In Genesis 6:9 we learn three things about the life of Noah: 1. He was a just man. 2. He was perfect in his generations. 3. He walked with God. Now, Noah could not have done these things had it not been for the grace and power of a thrice Holy God. Beloved, God was about to destroy the earth. It was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. Now, the sin of Adam and Eve had appeared to be a small one. But all sin is black before a Holy God. Sin had opened the door for all manner of evil to fill the earth in Noah's day. A divine revelation had been despised and rejected. Repeated warnings had been ignored and laughed at. Atonement for sin by sacrifice had been spurned. Men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. The number of God's people had been diminished to such an extent that there were few who feared the Lord and walked by faith.

Now, beloved, this is what is wrong with the world today. Few fear God. If people knew the God that you and I know, they would tremble as we tremble. Beloved, the faith of Noah is described in Hebrews 11:7. He was warned by God of things not yet seen. He was moved with fear, prepared the ark to the saving of his house, and by this condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness which is by faith. In this remarkable verse, seven things are told us about Noah's faith. 1. The grounds of his faith was the Word of God. True faith must rest not on feeling or fancy, but on the naked Word of God. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. 2. The sphere of Noah's faith was things not seen as yet, that is, future things, things in the realm of the unseen. True believers walk by faith and not by sight. 3. The character of Noah's faith was that he was moved with fear. Faith not only believes the sweet promises of God, but also,

Psalm 36:7-12

Intro: The misery of man caused by sin necessitates the mercy of God. We therefore, cry out with the publican, "God be merciful to me a sinner" and, rejoice to know that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief" (Luke 18:13; I Tim. 1:15). We can, on this basis, go down to our house justified, and go on our way rejoicing (Luke 18:14; Acts 8:39). David, in these verses, keeps before him the eye of faith — the faithfulness and greatness of God.

### VERSE 7

"How excellent." How perfect and complete are the attributes of God; they are beyond measure and beyond compare (Isa. 40:25)!

"Is Thy loving kindness, O God!" David is overwhelmed at the breathtaking beauty of God's kindness, promoted by His love. Yes, "herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (I John 4:10).

"Therefore, the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Thy wings." The goodness of God leads us to repentance, and the love of Christ constrains us. We have all been disappointed by the promises of men and, coming to the end of ourselves, were brought to trust in God's

believes His solemn threatenings. 4. The evidence of Noah's faith was seen in his works of preparing the ark. Faith without works is dead. 5. The grand issue of Noah's faith was the saving of his house. 6. The witness of Noah's faith was a condemning of the world which did not believe. 7. The reward of Noah's faith was that he became an heir of the righteousness which is by faith. Faith brings present blessings. Faith wins God's smile of approval. Faith fills the heart with joy and peace. Faith oils the machinery of life. Faith makes all things possible.

In the sermon on the mount, we learn that God-loving and God-fearing people are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Therefore, in Noah's day, there was not salt sufficient to preserve the world. God's longsuffering was at an end, His Spirit was withdrawn and the judgement of the great flood came upon the earth. But, even

(Continued on Page 4 Column 4)

## The Baptist Examiner

### BIBLE STUDY LESSON

By WILLARD PYLE

Pastor — Naples Park Baptist Church of Naples Park, Florida



faithfulness. Under the shadow of His wings we found contentment and consolation; we found peace and real prosperity.

### VERSE 8

"They shall be abundantly satisfied." No one has, or will ever be disappointed who has been brought to the Father's house, for He shall supply all our need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philip. 4:19). The saints shall enjoy "the riches of the glory of His inheritance" yea, the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus" (Eph. 1:18; 2:7).

"With the fatness of Thy house." The prodigal son found in the father's house what couldn't be found in the world. The fatted calf is symbolic of the blessings God has for His children. No wonder John in Revelation 2:9 says, "But thou art rich." To dwell in the house of the Lord forever was the assurance David had (Psalm 23:6). The servants of Solomon can only illustrate the fulness of the blessings of the saints (I Kings 10:4-8). "His royal bounty" (I Kings 10:13) is but a drop in the bucket to the One Solomon portrayed!

"And Thou shalt make them drink of the river of Thy pleasures." The Shepherd leads by the still waters and causes the sheep to lie down in green pastures (Ps. 23:1-3). No wonder Moses would rather "suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward" (Heb. 11:25, 26). The river in Revelation 22:1 is, and will ever flow for the enjoyment of the saints. Yes, at His right hand are pleasures forevermore. This is the reason Mary wanted to sit at His feet and hear His Word, for she realized the fatness of His house was vital if she was to properly care for her house.

### VERSE 9

"For with Thee." "Neither is there salvation in any other" (Acts 4:12). Herein is the source of all of our blessings. Every good gift is from above (James 1:17). All spiritual blessings are in Him (Eph. 1:3).

"Is the fountain of life." No wonder we read in John 1:4: "In Him was life." The fountains of the world are polluted and bring forth death, but in Jesus Christ there is life more abundant (John 10:10). He is the Tree of Life, the Fountain of Life, and the Bread of Life. Therefore, He provides the water of life for His own (John 4:14). He that cometh to Him shall never hunger nor thirst (John 6:35).

"In Thy light shall we see light." All men, to a degree, enjoy the light of nature, but in reality, even the light which is in them is darkness, for we read in Ephesians 4:18: "Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart." We need to realize that even the saints were sometimes "darkness" and had

to be brought out of darkness into light (Col. 1:13; I Pet. 1:9). God had to shine in our heart (II Cor. 4:6). God help us to walk in the light (I John 1:7) and to make the Word of God to be our light and lamp (Ps. 119:105) and then to look for the dawning of the new day to be ushered in, as joy comes in the morning (II Pet. 1:19; Ps. 30:5). This will help us to let our light so shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify the Father which is in Heaven (Matt. 5:16).

### VERSE 10

"O continue Thy loving kindness." David realized the need for the present; and in view of the past, and in anticipation of the future, he desires for the Lord to continue His blessings. Thank God, "He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philip 1:6). As Paul says in II Corinthians 1:10, "Who hath delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in Whom we trust that He will yet deliver us." Jesus, having loved His own, loved them to the uttermost, or all the way (John 13:1). Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 8:39).

### "Unto them that know Thee."

In salvation we are brought to know Him (John 10:27). "I know my Redeemer liveth" (Job. 19:25). "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28); and finally, "we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him" (I John 3:2). May we desire to know Him better (Philip. 3:8-10).

"And Thy righteousness to the upright in heart." Continue to plead our case as You have justified us according to Thy righteousness through Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:1), now defend us from all wrong according to Thy mercy.

### VERSE 11

"Let not the foot of pride come against me." The proud would crush us in their arrogance. David knew the truth of Psalm 10:2 and so, "Be Thou our defence," is his cry. Let pride go before destruction (Pro. 16:18).

"And let not the hand of the wicked remove me." The feet and hands of the wicked are continually at work against the saints (Acts 2:23); turn their hands to leprosy (II Kings 15:5; II Chron. 26:19-21).

### VERSE 12

"There are the workers of iniquity fallen: they are cast down, and shall not be able to rise." Both a prophecy, and a fulfillment of David's prayer. Total victory is ours!

Conclusion: These verses should serve to promote thanksgiving and faithfulness, as well as expectation.

(EDITORS NOTE: If you would like to write to Bro. Pyle expressing your appreciation for the lessons or ask him questions about his exposition of the Scripture his address is Rt. 22, Box 1198, Fort Myers, Fla. 33908).

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER  
NOVEMBER 20, 1982  
PAGE THREE

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# The Baptist Examiner Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

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

*Did the church of Jesus Christ, or any church, begin on the day of Pentecost?*

Dear Readers:

I would like to begin by thanking the Calvary Baptist Church for the privilege of being a forum writer in what I believe to be the greatest religious paper in print.

I would urge the readers of T.B.E. to be faithful in support of the paper. I have never been a member of a church that did not support T.B.E.

It will be a challenge for me to try and answer the questions in the forum. I desire that you will pray much for me as I begin this effort. I will seek to give a Biblical answer to each question and to treat each question as a matter of importance to the asker. It is my desire that we will be a blessing to each other through the Examiner.

Again, I ask that you pray for me and the other writers, as well as the Examiner itself, that we will give through our answers honor and glory to our God.

Also, we have baptisms, the preaching of the gospel, the assembling, and the commissioning of, and by, the Church before Pentecost. We find in Acts 2:1 that the Church is already meeting and it is at this meeting of the Church that the Holy Ghost comes on the Church in a special way. In Acts 2:41 we find that those who were saved were baptized into the church (I Cor. 12:13 tells us baptism is into the church). How could they be baptized into something if it was not already in existence.

So, we find the answer to both questions is 'no.' I will add that the Baptist Church was started during the earthly ministry of Christ and, therefore, all saved should join the Church Jesus built.

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No, the so-called church of Jesus Christ did not start on the day of Pentecost. I am presuming the questioner is asking about the organization that goes by that name today. The Church of Jesus Christ was started by Alexander Campbell in 1827. This is 1797 years too late to be the church Jesus started. Alexander Campbell left the Baptist Church to start his own. He does, however, attest to the existence of Baptists in every century.

No, there was no church started on the day of Pentecost. Jesus said in Matthew 16:18 that He would build His church and the gates of hell would not prevail against it. The Greek word for build means to build up or to edify. Christ could not

edify that which was not in existence. In Matthew 18:16-18 we find Christ speaking of the authority of the Church to bind and loose. How can Christ give authority if it does not exist. In Matthew 26:25-29 we see the church partaking of the Lord's Supper.

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No church began on the day of Pentecost. The Lord's church was already in existence. Acts 1:15 tells us that there were 120 members of the church and that they had a business meeting before the day of Pentecost (Acts 1:15-26). When Pentecost came it was the day that the Holy Spirit came to the church with special power, thus putting God's stamp of approval on it and the work that she was to do. Christ has said, **"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth"** (Acts 1:8).

The church was in existence long before Pentecost. Christ Himself tells this in Matthew 18:17: **"And if he neglect to hear them, tell it to the church..."** He wouldn't have told them to tell it to something that didn't exist.

The day of Pentecost was just a day that God used to show that He is now working through His church and that is all. The Holy Spirit immersed the church into Himself.

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The answer to this question is an emphatic NO! The church belonging to Christ was started by Christ Himself. In Matthew 16:18 He tells us that, **"I will build My church."** In Matthew 18:15-17 He tells His church how to deal with trouble between members of the church. In Matthew 26:30 and Mark 14:26 we see the prophecy of Psalm 22:22, concerning Jesus singing in His church being fulfilled. Also, in Acts 1:13-26 we see the church meeting in an upper room for prayer and a business meeting to select one to take Judas' place. In Acts 1:1-9 Jesus told His disciples (His church) to wait at Jerusalem until they received power after the Holy Spirit had come upon them. Note, He did not tell them to wait until the Holy Spirit organized them into a church, but they, already being a

church, were to wait until receiving power from the Holy Spirit. We also see that on the day of Pentecost there was added to the church **"about three thousand souls"** (Acts 2:41).

As to any other church having its beginning on the day of Pentecost, we know, from history, that the Catholic and all of the Protestant churches had their beginning much, much later. In Revelation 2:9 we have mentioned a synagogue of Satan, but we are not told when or where it had its beginning.

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The first mention of the Church (Gr. ekklesia, meaning, from a verb, "to call out"), was when Jesus affirmed to Peter that **"I will build My Church"** (Mt. 16:18). Please note that He used the future perfect tense, which affirmed that, as yet, no such Church existed.

But soon after this announcement, in having "called out" a Church-nucleus, He affirmed, in the presence tense, the existence of such a Church-nucleus with governmental authority to discipline its membership, when He said, **"Tell it to the Church"** (Mt. 18:17).

Then, later, after a short waiting period at Pentecost, when they were imbued with special authority in regard to the Church's ministry, God added to this Church-nucleus daily (Acts 2:17), which He will continue to do until He will have completed (as to number) the building of His Church.

This brief, I think, gives clear evidence that neither the Church of Jesus Christ nor any church had its beginning on the day of Pentecost.

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The church of Jesus Christ did not have its origin on the Pentecost of Acts 2, nor at any other time this side of Pentecost, but the fact is, the Lord Jesus Christ founded His church during His personal ministry on earth. Prior to Pentecost the church had already received its commission and its ordinances from its one and only Head and law giver, Jesus Christ. The church which fixes its beginning on the day of Pentecost, or any time thereafter, has neither Divine commission nor ordinances, and is therefore of human

origin and shut up to its own inventions.

The Holy Spirit is not the founder nor Head of the church, but He is the Administrator and Executor of the church. To give the church power to fulfill the commission of carrying the gospel to the uttermost part of the earth, the Lord baptized the church in the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. It was not origin the church received on the day of Pentecost, but power to execute the purpose for which it had been brought into existence during the early public ministry of Christ.

The church did not receive the gospel on the day of Pentecost, it already had the gospel, and everything else necessary to its being and essence, but it needed the institutional baptism in the Spirit, and it is by this baptism the Lord is with His church and shall be with it every day throughout the age.

Whether or not there was a church started on the day of Pentecost, I do not know, but it is unmistakably clear the Lord's church was not started on Pentecost. I am convinced that by the time of the Acts 2 Pentecost, Satan had already conceived in his diabolical mind the harlot system, and the apostasy which the Apostle John mentions (I John 2:19) was given organizational impetus in the Council of Nice in 325 A.D. which council was presided over by the Emperor Constantine.

About 99 of the churches holding that the nature of the church is either universal visible or universal invisible, also hold to human works as a means of salvation. They are kindred errors, and rarely are they found separate. On the other hand, Sovereign Grace Landmarkers, holding the nature of the church to be local and visible, all consistently teach, it is the free and sovereign grace of God that saves the sinner.

## NOAH

(Continued from Page 3)

in judgment, God would preserve His people. Genesis tells us of the building of the ark, and we can draw many spiritual blessings from this.

The ark was built according to divine directions. Noah and his house, with representatives of lower creation found shelter therein from the storm of God's judgment. Beloved, before the flood came, and before the ark was built, this was in the mind of God. We would like for you to notice that the ark was not provided by God after the water had begun to fall. The flood did not begin, and God looked down and saw Noah nearly drowning in the flood, and said, **"Oh, my goodness, there is Noah, I'll save Him with an ark."** It did not happen in that way. Noah was commanded to construct the ark before one drop of rain had fallen. Beloved, likewise, the Saviorship of Christ was not an after-thought with God, after sin had come in and blighted His fair creation. From all eternity God had purposed to redeem His people unto Himself. Jesus Christ was a lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

The ark was God's provision for Noah, as Christ is God's provision for sinners. Notice that God revealed to Noah His own designs and ordered him to build a place of refuge into which he could flee from the storms of judgment. The ark was no invention of Noah or anyone else. Had God not

revealed His thoughts to Noah, he would have perished with others. Also, God had to reveal by His Spirit and Word, His thoughts of mercy and grace towards you and me. Otherwise, in our blindness and ignorance, we should be eternally lost.

Noah was commanded to make the ark out of gopher wood. The material of the ark teaches us a great truth. That is, that life comes out of death and can only be secured by sacrifice. Before the ark could be made, trees must be cut down. That which secured the life of Noah and his house was obtained through the death of the trees. So Christ, who is the eternal Son of God must become a man, akin to that which was originally made of the dust of the earth, and as such Christ must be cut off, before a refuge could be provided from divine judgement for the elect people of God.

The ark was a place of safety. It was provided by God. When death threatened, it was the only place of deliverance. Our blessed Lord Jesus Christ is the only Saviour of sinners. The Bible tells us that His is the only name under heaven whereby we must or can be saved. It was God Himself that called Noah and his family into the ark (Gen. 7:1). Note that God said "come" not "go." This means that God was in the ark, and would be present there to deliver and preserve Noah and those in the ark.

Now, note that the ark was a place of absolute security. It was pitched within and without with pitch. This made it thoroughly watertight and it was a perfect shelter from the storm. This is true of our salvation in Jesus Christ. Our life is hid with Christ in God. Note that it was the Lord who shut them in the ark. Oh! what a blessed thought, and what great comfort this is to believers. Noah did not have to take care of himself after entering into the ark. God was the One responsible for his preservation. 1st Peter 1:5 tells us that we are kept by the power of God. This security is further seen in that, one year later, they all came out of the ark. They had made it through the great flood. God had kept them safe and brought them forth to a new earth. They all were preserved. Not one died in the ark during that year. So is it with believers. They are all preserved, and will all reach the new heaven and new earth.

Next, I want you to note that the ark only had one door into it. The same thought is true of the tabernacle of Moses. The spiritual application of this is apparent. There is only one way of deliverance from the wrath to come. There is only one way of escape from eternal death. There is only one Saviour from the lake of fire, and that is our wonderful Lord and Saviour: Jesus Christ. Jesus tells us that He is the way, the truth and the life. He tells us that He is the door. There is no other Saviour. It is Christ or hell! It is Christ or hell!

Now, note that the ark had three stories in it. I think this hints at our threefold salvation in Christ. Our whole body, soul, and spirit is to be preserved blameless unto the day of Jesus Christ (I Thess. 5:23). Note that there were rooms in the ark. I think this tells us that, in Christ, we have more than a refuge from the storm. We have a resting place. We have comfort and peace. We have sweet

(Continued on Page 5 Column 1)



## NOAH

(Continued from Page 4)

fellowship with others in the rooms God has provided for us. This may remind us of the many mansions in the Father's house above.

I want to point out that the storm fell upon the ark which provided shelter for Noah and those with him. So, too, the storms of divine judgment burst upon our adorable Redeemer as He suffered in our place and stead... **"All thy billows and waves are gone over me"** was His cry. He saved us from the storm. He could not, or rather, did not save Himself therefrom.

I believe that the day the ark rested on Mount Ararat was the same day in which Christ rose from the dead. The ark rested on this mountain on the 17th day of the 7th month. But later, this seventh month was changed to the first month of the year at the time of the institution of the passover. The passover was on the 14th day of this month. The resurrection was three days later which was the 17th day of the month, the same day as that when the ark rested on Mount Ararat. On that day of resurrection, the Lord, having passed quite through the storm of judgment, stood in resurrection glory in the midst of His disciples saying, **"Peace be unto you."** Not only does this prefigure the resurrection of Christ, but also His ascension. The ark rested on the mountain, speaking of the place on high where our Saviour is now seated at the right hand of God.

Truly, beloved, God poured out His judgment upon the earth. It rained 40 days and 40 nights, and the water was 22½ feet above the highest mountain on earth. All men and all beasts and all fowls died in this judgment of God, that is, all but Noah and those with him in the ark.

Now, beloved, let me leave you with this thought: If our Lord was to return today for His people, are you ready to go home with Him? I cannot answer that question for you. It is my sincere desire that you can answer it with a "yes." May this message be a blessing to you and to God be the glory for it all!

## RACE

(Continued from Page 1)

run with patience, the race that is set before. Doesn't it fire you up, doesn't it do something to you, doesn't it stir you up to know that great cloud of witnesses exists? Doesn't it thrill you to know that maybe one day, if the Lord tarries, that we may take our rightful stand and our rightful place and march in and sit down with those great patriots of old? We see in these verses of Scripture the past, the present, and the future.

In the present, he said, **"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand."** This is in the present tense. Paul is talking about the present tense of his service and how he is ready to be anchored out and loosened to go home to be with the Lord.

In the past tense, he says, **"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."** This is in the past tense. Paul said that he wanted to strive beyond measures, beyond bounds, he wanted to preach the glorious gospel where no one else had preached it. He wanted to lay a foundation where no other man had ever laid a foundation, which is the foundation of the Lord Jesus Christ. It ought to stir us up. I tell you, it tears me up when I think that I can't go on the mission field like Brother Halliman and those dear saints of God there in the Northwest territories. But, Brother, listen, we can pray for them, we can write them and encourage them. We can support them and give them financial aid that they may be able to preach the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. Think about it, dear friend! One day someone brought you the gospel. God made it so that you could hear the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. If He hadn't, you'd still be in your sin. If you hadn't heard the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ, you would still be lost. You would be lost and undone. But you are saved and you are on your way to glory. Why? Because men of God made it possible for you to hear testimony of the saving grace of God. That ought to stir us up. That ought to warm us up inside and make us more missionary-minded. Listen, brother, church money belongs to God. It does not belong to us. It belongs to God. And we are to put it in His work.

Then Paul goes on in the future tense, **"Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."** Do you love His appearing? Are you anticipating and looking for it and loving it. Oh, thank God, He may come tonight! Isn't that wonderful! Listen, there is nothing here for a man to want to stay upon this earth. No, Paul said, **"For me to live is Christ and to die is gain."** So Paul was looking forward to death. He knew that death was only falling asleep in Jesus. He knew that one day the Lord was going to raise that old body. Yes, Paul is going to be raised one day. And I'm here to tell you the one that executed him and the ones that persecuted him are burning in Hell tonight and they are going to be there eternally and forever.

But Paul hasn't received his

reward yet. He'll not receive his till I receive mine if I get one. I pray to God I have one, I pray as I've said many times, I hope I have something to lay down at those pierced feet of our precious Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

People say, "Oh, I'm saved by the skin of my teeth" or "I just want to make it inside the door," but not me, brother! I want to be saved and I want to have crowns to lay down at the feet of Jesus! So now Paul's last message is in II Timothy 4:7-8, as he readies to join the cloud of witnesses whose testimony leads one to run with patience the race that is set before us. Why? In Matthew 7:14, **"...because straight is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life and few there be that find it."** Brother, listen, there is only a few that find that narrow road. And listen, brother, if you are on the narrow way, you have to walk continually upon the narrow way. In other words, you have to be in the race to run it. Here it says there is a race that we must run. It says, **"Lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."** But listen, brother, you have to be upon the narrow road to properly cover the race course! You have to be in the race to run it. There has to be a qualification made here. You can't be on the narrow road unless you are qualified of God. You can't run in the race unless you are qualified.

Apostle Paul in his writings a lot of times talks about the endurance of the saint of God. He talks about it like a race, wrestling, boxing, like being in an arena, fighting and he talks about the Marathon race. He says all run, but only one receives the prize. Listen, brother, all have to run the race. If you are in a race you have to run. So to be upon this road, you have to be qualified and you have to be entered in the race.

I imagine Paul was some athlete. I believe he was very witty and a very educated man. I believe he knew all about these Marathon races, and I believe he knew all about athletics. I believe he disciplined himself, just like an athlete does to win a gold medal. Those people train and sacrifice and they do everything for years to win a gold medal. What are you in it for? Oh, we are not in it for a gold medal or incorruptible crown. But we are in it for the glory of God. I Corinthians 9:24, **"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain."** Brother, to run, you have to be qualified and you have to run to obtain this glorious crown. **"Every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air; But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection; lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."**

Now what is Paul saying in these verses of Scripture? Well, I do not run aimlessly, I do not box as one that beateth the air, but I control my body and I subdue my body lest after I preached to others, I myself should be disqualified. That's what that word means. Notice, "Lest I be disqualified." Paul said that after I do all of this

discipline and all of these things, and then I preach to others and I'm not qualified myself, then I be disqualified. In other words, Paul is not talking about salvation, he's talking about crowns and rewards that he may receive one day when the righteous Judge hands them out.

Now in II Timothy 2, Apostle Paul deals with a soldier of Jesus Christ. He said that God has chosen you to be a soldier of Jesus Christ. Listen, I didn't choose it, God chose me and God chose me to be a soldier of Jesus Christ. Think about the responsibility a man has if he's a soldier for his country. Look at the training he has to go through.

What is FAITH based on? Well, read Hebrews 11 and it will tell you. Oh, how many men and women of faith are named in Hebrews 11! They made the royal list of God; heroes of faith; steadfast, faithful, unmoveable, unchangeable, in the grace of God. They stood in opposition, gave their life for the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ. They shed their precious blood, they were starved, they hungered, they slipped around in caves and tried to meet and preach the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. These are heroes of faith. Wouldn't you like to be mentioned in that Book! Listen, they are someone to look up to. They made a stirring testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ. Not only that, he's looking back to what has already been stated. Well, it's just like the same word used in Roman 8:1, **"There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus."** Why did Paul write that? Well, read the book of Romans and you will understand why he wrote it. He talks about being justified by the blood of Jesus Christ, that Christ has been set for the propitiation for our sins and he talks about Christ dying for our sins and rising again for our justification. Hebrews brings forth the blood of Jesus Christ, how He entered in once by His precious blood into the holy place to obtain eternal redemption for us. The whole book is talking about it.

We are also compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses. Did you ever think about that? **"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses."** Think about an arena as I said before, and imagine the seats and people sitting and watching a race or some kind of athletic event in the arena. This is what Apostle Paul is saying. I believe the saints of God who have gone on before are looking down and can see our struggling and fight. I know that they are there, and I know that they have left a testimony, a burning testimony, for their faith and strength in God and it gives me strength. When I think about Moses, it gives me strength. Moses went up to the Mount and talked to God forty days and forty nights. How Moses came down and was worried with a million people that were rebellious and head strong and he was worried constantly with them day and night. Think about how Moses smote the rock and water came out of it. How Moses stretched out his staff over the waters and the Red Sea parted. All those wonderful things about Moses. I think about Joshua and the wall of Jericho and how he held back the people because they were so eager. And how they

that city, and then, they blew the trumpets and the wall fell down. Think about that! Think about how Joshua never lost a battle! There wasn't a man who could stand before Joshua. Why? Because of the power of God. He was a warrior. There was no fear about him. He even wanted to have combat with an angel one time. "Whose side are you on?" he asked. He was ready to challenge the Angel of the Lord there at the walls of Jericho. We have hundreds and hundreds of witnesses and testimonies of the saints of God. Even personally, in our own life.

To compass about means to encircle. It means to surround. Elisha prayed for God to open his servant's eyes, because the servant was so afraid. We see how that God opened that servant's eyes and he saw the angels of God in chariots of fire, and they were more of them than the Assyrians. Boy, what a beautiful story that is! God smote the Assyrians blind. Elisha led them right down into the camp and God spared their lives. They were helpless. They were blind. They didn't know where they were.

Then look in Hebrews 11:30, **"By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days."** So the word compassed means a cloud of witnesses to encircle or surround the saints of God.

You know the Shekinah cloud played a great part in the life of Israel. Let's just notice a couple of places in the book of Acts 1, some things about this cloud. Oh, I tell you one day over in Israel, God's people are going to see a cloud form in the sky. It's going to be the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible says that the clouds are God's chariot. He rises upon the wings of the air, but the clouds are His chariot. Notice in verse 9, I believe it was the same cloud that received Jesus. He was received in this cloud. This cloud, this glory of God. It wasn't any ordinary cloud. Some people say that it was just an ordinary cloud because it was cloudy that day. People, it was the Shekinah cloud! When Jesus Christ comes, He will come in a cloud of glory with great power, the Bible says. This is no ordinary cloud we will see that day. It's going to be the cloud of God, the power and glory of God. In I Thessalonians 4:17, we see this cloud again. I believe this is the same cloud that received the Lord Jesus Christ when He ascended. I Thess. 4:17, **"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord."** I believe it will be the glory of God.

We will experience this great glory and power of God. Why? Because we are going to be transformed. We are going to

(Continued on Page 6 Column 1)

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PAGE FIVE



## RACE

(Continued from Page 5)

have a glorious body like Jesus Christ. We are going to be in the very presence of divine deity, the power of God. We are going to be in the presence of One that no one has been able to look upon the face of and live. We are going to see Him. Oh, this cloud, this great cloud!

It says, "let us lay aside every weight," literally, to lay aside every worldly hindrance or embarrassment to the Christian career. What sin is it that gives you a hard time? What sin? It doesn't specifically say what sin. Any sin. Not coming to church, not tithing, a lot of things we are doing that we shouldn't be doing, which brings not only harm to our testimony and makes our feet drag so that we are not able to run in the race like we should, but it brings embarrassment to the Lord's Church.

Do you think the Lord's Church is embarrassed? It's embarrassed as to the way some people live here today. The way some members are not coming to Church. I hate to dwell upon that, but it is a terrible thing. Now I really believe it is. Listen, brother, do you love the Lord, do you love His Word? I couldn't stand it if I couldn't come to church. You need to be with the saints of God and to hear His Word in order to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. A Christian won't stay home unless he is absolutely so sick that he can't raise his head up. I don't look for any excuse to miss church. I don't put anything else ahead of the church either. Any kind of worldly entertainment put before the church is a terrible thing.

"Lay aside every weight." Well, any form of sin means a man wears in the race clothes that are not properly fitted. We should put on the whole armor of God, Ephesians 6:10-17.

Did you ever see a man out there in a race and he is wearing heavy, bulky pants and a heavy shirt? No, he'll have on gym shorts and track shoes. That's all he has on. These things don't hold him back. It gives him more endurance. That's what God said, every sin we hold on to, every little thing we do weighs us down. It's hurting your testimony, it's hurting your life, it's hurting your cause for Christ, and you might not think so, but you are hurting the Lord's Church.

Sin does so easily beset us. Any form of sin or doubt. "Let us run with patience" is to continue to exercise one's self-control at all times. To be alert, to be ready to give an answer to every man the hope that's in you with meekness and fear, to be able to look the world straight in the face and not be ashamed. Listen, brother, when I'm with a bunch of people and out in the world, I hope and pray people can look and say, "Well, I can see the difference." Wouldn't that be awful if the world couldn't tell you from a sinner?

People say, "Well, when the Lord comes He is going to take me." Yes, sir, but a lot of these places that many people are going to be in, they are going to be ashamed of His coming. Listen, brother, I would hate to be in a beer joint or in a bar, or any of that kind of a worldly place when the Lord comes and have to stand before Him, with your head bowed down between your

*If you don't go to Heaven before you die, you'll not get there afterward.*

legs, not being able to look up. That's what Paul is talking about and what Peter is talking about with John, when they said to be ashamed at His coming. Let us run with patience. Let us continue to exercise one's self-control at all times.

In Philippians 1:27, Paul said "Stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel." To strive in Luke 13:24, our precious Lord said, "Strive to enter by the narrow door," strive to enter in by the narrow door! Christ is the source of our strength in Colossians 1:29. Strive with all the energies which He mightily inspires in us.

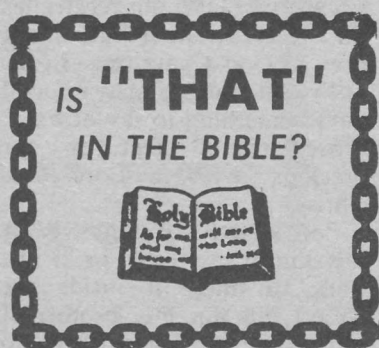
In I Timothy 4:10, we toil and strive because we have our hope set on the living God. That's what Paul told Timothy. We should strive because our hope is set on the living God. We know He liveth. We know He can't fail. Do you believe that tonight? You can't fail. You are on the winning side. You can't fail because you are serving a living God. You are serving Him that was dead and now alive forever more. You are serving a God that is faithful and true. You are serving a God that is strong and powerful. You are serving a God that is able to do what He said He would do above and beyond measures. We are urged to fight the good fight of faith.

In I Timothy 6:12, Paul wrote to young Timothy and he urges Timothy to fight the good fight of faith. In Jude 3, the Bible tells us, "Let us contend for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints of God." It hasn't changed. These saints served the same God. They had the same faith. They had the trials and tribulations. They had problems. Did not James write about it? He writes about Elijah and about Job, and he talks about the patience of Job, "Have ye heard of the patience of Job?" Listen, brother, the world knows about the patience of Job. Hell knows about it, because there are people in hell that know about the patience of Job.

And he talks about Elijah, He said that Elijah was a like man — just like we are. Elijah had his problems and troubles. He had this old flesh just like we do. But he asked it not to rain for three years and it didn't rain. Then he went to God and asked for God to send the rain. And God sent the rain. He was a man of faith. Simple childlike faith. He believed what God said.

Oh, if we could just believe simply in what God tells us to do. It's inconceivable to think what we could do for the glory of God! How much stronger we can be here, how much greater we can be in the sight of God! How much farther we can march on into victory and take the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. Brother, we are going to meet those people.

Going on into the test, "And let us run with patience the race that was set before us." With patience, persistence. That's what it means. And in II Peter 1:5, "Add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge." Now that word "add to" actually means ministry in the Greek. That means being active in Romans 5:6, being active. Tribulation worketh patience. You can't be lazy and slothful and expect to have patience, and expect to have endurance and victory in your life. You can't do it! Listen, when you are in a race, I think you know you



QUESTION:—Where is described a singing school of 288 persons?

ANSWER:—First Chronicles 25:7 — "So the number of them, with their brethren that were instructed in the songs of the Lord, even all that were cunning, was two hundred fourscore and eight."

have to be active. You are training all of the time, watching what you eat and all of those things. So the race that is set before us is termed a contest. Set before us is Christ as our forerunner. That's what it says in Hebrews 6:18, He is the forerunner. I'll run the race as long as God lets me live. Why? Because the forerunner Jesus Christ is already entered into the veil. Where's my anchor? I have already raised my anchor like Apostle Paul. My anchor is steadfast, unmovable in the presence of God. That's what it says here, "That by two immutable things in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us. Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedek."

So Jesus Christ is the forerunner. Looking unto Jesus, the Bible says. You can find that word in Colossians 3:1-3, Phillipians 3:21, Titus 3:13, "Looking unto Jesus!" Well, if we are looking unto Jesus, then we are looking away from everything that may distract our attention. If our eyes are upon Christ, then our eyes are not upon the world and things that will distract our attention and hurt our testimony and hurt our service for God. We are not looking at anything that will distract, because now the writer has given us a long catalogue of Old Testament saints. He now presents Jesus, the mediator of the everlasting covenant. Oh, can't you see those Old Testament saints just flicker away, can't you see the eclipse there when Jesus Christ is presented and held up, what do you see? Do you see Aaron's priesthood, do you see that Leviticus priesthood, do you see the Old Testament saints full of faith? No! You see Jesus! You see Jesus who is the author and finisher of our faith.

Now the writer is bringing us into the point here that he wants to show us Jesus. The forerunner of Christ. "Looking unto Jesus," the finisher, the author of our faith, our leader or captain. Of course, He's the perfecter in Hebrews 10:14. He perfected forever them that were sanctified of God. The perfection of God's salvation, the perfection of the eternal living God. No flaws. We err, but not God! God is perfect! There is nothing unreasonable about God. There is nothing flawable in the character of God. God is perfect; God is good; God is love; God is mercy. God is all of these things. "Who for the joy that was set before him." What

do you think about that? In exchange, He was the mediator, the servant of the mediator of the everlasting covenant.

Oh, for the joy, for the exchange. What was the exchange? The exchange is the cross. The cross and the shame, the present struggle set before the believer in verse 1. It is the same thing set before Christ in verse 2. The shame, the reproach, the sufferings, the afflictions, the running the race, being obedient to God, being in the will of God, being in the service of God. This is set before Him. You see He is the pattern of all those things. The satisfaction of God demanded justice, but His holiness must be appeased. Christ removed our sins, but they must be punished. Not only must our sins be removed, but our sins must be punished. "For the wages of sin is death." Here's a wage that will not be affected by inflation! The punishment brings forth peace between God and man. And, of course, eternal salvation is brought in. He endured the cross and despised the shame. The Greek word is "kataphoneo." It means "to think down upon or against." It means to anyone of one mind to think slightly of it. He didn't look down upon it. He didn't abhor it. He didn't shrink back from it. He wasn't afraid of it. Do you think about that? That was His joy now that was set before him! It filled Him with joy that He died on the cross for us and saved us from our sins to give us eternal life. What do you think about that? Isn't that something to praise God for throughout eternity!! Filthy human beings such as we are, that it was a joy for Christ to do this for us. Enduring the cross and despising the shame, then sat down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 1:2-3). To enter in, means to finish with honor and royalty. He took the royal seat of glory. He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Brother, listen, when we oppose God, when we oppose the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ, when we oppose one of the saints of God, one of the children of God, we are enemies of our own soul.

In verse 4, "ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin." What does that mean? In your struggle against sin, you have not resisted to the point of shedding your blood, as the Old Testament saints did, and especially, our dear Lord on Calvary. Have you done it? Have you experienced that? In your struggle against sin, have you resisted to the point of shedding your blood? Have you bled through the pores of your skin? Have you been so burdened down with the burden of sin and temptation and the struggle of your Christian life, that you fell on your face and cried to God? Hebrews 5:7-10 says, "Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared. Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;"

Oh, my dear people, listen, I don't believe that we will ever come to that point. Maybe we will. In your struggle against sin you have not resisted to the point of shedding your blood as the Lord did His precious blood on Calvary. We haven't come to that point yet. God has delivered us from that. We're saved in the 20th century. Aren't you glad? Isn't it

wonderful that we are living in the time that we are living in now. Maybe all of us here tonight will be alive when the Lord comes. We haven't suffered—not like the Old Testament saints. We haven't experienced the bitterness of sin, the animosity of sin and the persecution and trials. Listen, brother, back then they took your life for your testimony. If you got out there and started talking about the saving grace of God and the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ, they would have cut your head off. They burned you at the stake. They nailed you on a cross. They fed you to lions. They dragged you through the streets until all your skin was off your body. They boiled you alive. Would we be willing to do that? Would we be willing to hide in caves and go hungry, not have any clothes but just skins from animals to keep us warm? Would we be willing to hide around in the forest and in back alleys and places like that to read just a little about the glorious Jesus Christ?

Paul said that we have such a cloud of witnesses that's gone on before us. Let us join those witnesses, let us be able and willing. Listen, brother, I don't want to be ashamed to sit down with some of those witnesses. I don't want to be sitting there with my head down. I want to be remembered as "Well, he fought a good fight, he kept the course." I want to be remembered as "he preached the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ." That's how I want to be remembered. Old Ray didn't falter. He stood his ground, He was firm. He never wavered. He preached it in the face of opposition. It didn't make any difference where he was, he preached the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. That's what Paul did! That's what all of the saints of God did! So let this stir us up, people. Be a strong church. A moving church, the Lord's church — the glory of God. Lay aside all weights and run this race properly so that God might receive glory and that we might not be ashamed at the coming of our Lord.

May God bless you all!

## CURSE

(Continued from Page 1)

others by leaving them in their sins. Arminianism teaches that Christ died for every man that has ever or shall ever live. That He shed His blood for the sion of every man's sins. (I wonder why anyone goes to hell.) Sovereign grace teaches that Christ died only for those the Father elected. That Christ died for the sheep only and not the goats. Arminianism teaches that man is able to resist the call of the Spirit; that the Spirit strives and begs, but man can refuse the power of God. Sovereign grace teaches that God's people shall be willing in the day of His power.

That in loving kindness God draws His people unto Himself. Consistent arminianism must teach that a man can lose his salvation. (if man can reject God before he is saved, then he could reject God after he is saved. It would be just as much a violation of man's will for God to keep him saved as it would be for God to save him to start with.) Sovereign grace teaches that once we are saved we are always saved, that none can pluck us out of our Father's hand.

From this we learn that Armi-  
(Continued on Page 7 Column 5)



Whenever a man is ready to uncover his sins, God is always ready to cover them.

## BRIEF STUDIES IN REVELATION

By The Editor

Chapters 2 & 3 of Revelation deal with the churches and the church age. They fit into the inspired outline of 1:19 as "the things that are." Chapter 1 is what John had seen. Chapters 2 & 3 deal with the things that are now going on and will until the church age ends with the rapture of the saints. Chapters 4-22 sets forth the things which shall be after the church age. By setting the contents of the Book into the inspired outline of 1:19, we see proof of the Pre-millennial and Pre-tribulational position.

From these chapters we learn that the church is a local visible institution with the purpose and obligation to shine the light of God's Word upon the darkness of this age. The angel of the church is the God-called pastor. The word for "angel" means messenger. Though mainly referring to supernatural spirit-beings, this word is used to refer to humans in Matthew 11:10; Mark 1:2; Luke 7:24-27 & James 2:25 among others. This word sets forth the pastor's relationship to the Lord and to the church. He is in the Lord's hand, under His control, authority, and protection. He is to get his message from the Lord. He is to give that message to the church. This is his foremost obligation as a pastor.

The Lord is walking in the midst of the candlesticks (His churches). He is observing what goes on therein. This is a warning to conform our behaviour to His Word. It is also a great encouragement as we labor for Him.

The seven churches in these two chapters were literal churches in existence at that very time. They were located on the western end of the peninsula of Asia Minor. Paul had labored in this area. Doubtlessly, John had preached here, and was likely now exiled to Patmos because of His faithful preaching in this area. Why these seven churches when others were in existence? There are many who hold what I call the Prophetic Theory as to these churches. The question one seeks to answer is, why these particular seven churches? The Prophetic Theory is that each one of the seven churches represents a period in the total history of the church age and is prophetic of that period, with the seven being prophetic of the whole age.

According to this theory,

Ephesus would represent the time from about 70 to 170, a time of great love and works in the church. Smyrna represents 170 to 312, a time of great persecution. Pergamos, 312 to 606, churches, as institutions, becoming wedded to the world, receiving great favor in the world and being much corrupted thereby. Thyatira thus represents the age of Roman Catholic domination from 606 to 1520. Sardis would represent from 1520 to 1750, the Protestant reformation, which was somewhat good, but not good enough. Philadelphia represents from 1750 to 1900, and shows time of revival in the church age and great missionary spirit. Laodicea represents the time from 1900 to the Rapture and sets forth great turning from the Lord and much lukewarmness in the church. Understand that this theory usually refers to the church as a universal institution without respect to true or false churches.

This theory is held by many good men and there are truly many striking resemblances between the letters and the history of the church age. I see some things which favor this view. However, I do reject this theory as the proper interpretation of these chapters. This view is too closely allied to the universal church theory which I vehemently reject. It is very difficult for one to follow this theory all the way through and hold to the local church position. Further, I believe that, so far as we could know from Scripture, the Lord's coming could have taken place at anytime since His ascension. This theory, if true and if understood at the time of its writing, would have made clear that the rapture could not take place until the Laodicean stage was reached. But to be fair, I will say that some hold this theory who are sound on the imminence of the Lord's coming and on church truth.

In interpreting these two chapters, I take the position that these seven churches are representative of all true churches in the church age. These seven letters to these churches constitute a full and complete message to all true churches in this age. We should carefully study them from this standpoint. We should apply each message to ourselves and our churches.

Now, I do not desire to over-

extend these studies, I, therefore, cannot go into great detail. I urge you to study them carefully, and just let me sort of lead you in study.

There are nine things considered in each of these seven messages to the churches: 1. Address. 2. A description of Christ, usually taken from the vision of chapter 1. 3. A statement that the Lord knows the works of each church. We need to remember this. 4. A commendation of some things (except to Laodicea). 5. A condemnation of some things, (except to Smyrna and Philadelphia). 6. An exhortation to certain duties. 7. A warning. 8. An appeal to hear the message. 9. A promise. Do you see how these nine things make up a full message to the true churches of our Lord? Now apply these nine different things as you read and study each one of the letters.

Jesus Christ is described to Ephesus as He who holdeth the seven stars in His right hand, and walketh in the midst of the candlesticks. To Smyrna, He is the first and the last, which was dead but is now alive. To Pergamos, He is the One who hath the sharp sword with two edges. To Thyatira, He is the Son of God who hath His eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass. To Sardis, He hath the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. To Philadelphia, He is the One that is holy, true, hath the key of David, openeth and shutteth. To Laodicea He is described as the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God. Beloved, there is a real connection between these descriptions of Christ and the conditions and needs of the church addressed. Carefully compare each description with the following message to the church.

The things commended are: At Ephesus, Works, labor, patience, discipline, not fainting, and hatred of the deeds of the Nicolaitanes. Note here that the church had authority, even over those who claimed to be apostles. The church is responsible for what is preached in her pulpit, and has authority over the pulpit, despite what some arrogant, dictatorial, despotic preachers think. The Nicolaitanes likely refers to the system of preachers seeking to rule the churches which finally degenerated into "popeedom."

Things commended at Smyrna are: Works, tribulation, poverty. At Pergamos: Holding fast His name, true to the faith, some were martyred. At Thyatira: Works, charity, service, faith, patience, more works. At Sardis: Some things which remained. At Philadelphia: A little strength, keeping the Word, and not denying His name. At Laodicea: Nothing. Now, note these commendable things: Work, doctrine, patience, discipline, love, His name. Let us seek to have these commendable things in our lives and in our churches.

Note the things condemned by the Lord. At Ephesus: First love left. This is our salvation love. Loss of this leads to all other ills in our lives and churches. At Smyrna: None. At Pergamos: At home (dwellest) in the devil's world, those holding the doctrine of Balaam (the church fornicating with the world), those which held the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes. "Laity" means people; "Nico" means to rule. They denied the democratic rule in the Lord's churches. At Thyatira: A woman, calling herself a pro-

phetess, teaching false doctrines; knowing the depths of Satan. It is not wrong for a woman to teach children and other women under church authority. It is wrong for her to speak in the assembly, to teach men. That condemned here is what she taught. Sardis: Had the name, but did not play the game of being a live church. Very weak, with undeveloped works. Philadelphia: None. Laodicea: Lukewarmness, proud profession without reality, ignorance of her true condition. Let us note the things that are condemned and seek to avoid them as individuals and as churches.

Now, let us note the exhortations to these churches. Ephesus: Remember from whence thou art fallen, repent, do thy first works. Smyrna: Fear not, be faithful unto death. Pergamos: Repent. Thyatira: Hold fast what you have, repent. Sardis: Be watchful, strengthen what remains, remember, hold fast, repent. Philadelphia: Hold fast what thou hast that no man take thy crown (salvation cannot be lost, but rewards can). Laodicea: Buy gold tried in the fire, anoint thy eyes, be zealous, repent. Let us heed these exhortations. Note especially: Remember, repent, watch, hold fast.

Now note the warnings given to these churches. Ephesus: Removal of the candlestick. A church can cease to be a true church in God's sight. Smyrna: none. Pergamos: I will come quickly, and fight against you. Not the second coming, but a coming in judgement upon this church. Thyatira: Cast into great tribulation, killed with death (the sin unto death for a saved person). Sardis: Come on thee as a thief. Philadelphia: None. Pergamos: I will come of my mouth; cease to be a true church. Let us heed these warnings.

Now note the promises. Ephesus: To eat of the tree of life. Smyrna: Not hurt of the second death. Pergamos: Eat of hidden manna, white stone, a new name. Thyatira: Power over the nations, the morning star. Sardis: Clothed in white raiment, name not blotted out (It is not said that any name will be blotted out), confessed before the Father and angels. Philadelphia: A pillar in the temple, an open door, permanent dwelling, the name of God, and of the city of God and of the Lord. Laodicea: Sit with Christ in His throne. Other promises are given. Study them all. What precious promises are these! More precious than anything this world has to offer.

Who are the overcomers who will receive these promises? Some think they are all true believers. There are some things said here that are and will be true of every born-again child of God. There are some special things here that do not apply to all the saved. I believe the overcomers are those who are members of true churches, and who are faithful to the Lord and they will be rewarded by being in the Bride of Jesus Christ. From these messages we learn that, in order to be in the Bride, one must be a member of a true church, do the things commended, shun the things condemned, and heed the warnings given. But such a glorious reward will be well worth what it takes to obtain.

I urge you to study carefully these messages to these seven churches. Prayerfully ask the Lord to apply them to your life and to your church. A Holy Spirit empowered application of

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these messages to our churches would surely bring great blessings. Few things are more needed in our churches than a careful study and application of these two chapters. May the Lord bless you all!

## CURSE

(Continued from Page 6)

Arminianism is nothing more than a sanctified form of salvation by works. What is an Arminian? He is a person who says the final decision in salvation rests not in the power of God, but in the free will of man. If you believe this, then I would urge you to study the Word of God; it is clear as to the teaching of salvation, which is only by the grace of God.

Let us observe; to what is Arminianism a curse. A curse is that which brings evil or trouble upon persons or things. Surely, this is true of Arminianism.

First, Arminianism is a curse relative to the Word of God. Beloved, anything that is contrary to the Bible is a curse. I say, without any fear of being proven wrong, that Arminianism is contrary to the clear teaching of God's Word. Either the Bible is truth and every Arminian a liar or vice versa. As for me, I think I will accept the Bible.

Let us look at a few verses that refute the terrible heresy of Arminianism. I'm sure most of you have heard of the T.U.L.I.P. doctrines. Let us take each one and give Bible to prove them, thereby disproving not only Arminianism, but any other system of theology as well.

1. TOTAL DEPRAVITY: Ephesians 2:1 teaches us that man is dead. A dead man can do absolutely nothing and a spiritually dead man, also, can

(Continued on Page 8 Column 1)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER  
NOVEMBER 20, 1982  
PAGE SEVEN

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### CURSE

(Continued from Page 7)

do nothing. I Corinthians 2:14 tells us the natural man can not know the things of God. John 6:63 tells us that the flesh profiteth nothing. Surely salvation is the greatest profit a man could ever receive, yet the Bible says the flesh cannot profit. In John 5:40 Jesus said, "Ye will not come to me that ye might have life." Jesus could not have said this unless He knew man was unable to come. Jeremiah 17:9 tells us the heart is incurable. Certainly, Romans 3:10-18 teaches us man is totally depraved.

2. UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION: In Romans 9:11-13 we surely learn of God's choice being based on His love and not anything seen in man. I urge you to read there of the example of Jacob and Esau. I would also like to mention verse 16. If ever there was a verse teaching man has nothing to do with his salvation, verse 16 is it: "Not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy." Ephesians 1:4, 5 tells us election took place from the foundation of the world. II Thessalonians 2:13 tells us election was from the beginning. John 15:16 plainly says, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you."

3. LIMITED ATONEMENT: Any person that does not believe in a limited atonement does not have a proper understanding of the death of Christ. A universal atonement brings great reproach on practically every attribute of God. John 10:15 tells us Jesus gave His life for His sheep, while in Matthew 25:32, 33 we see there are the sheep on the right hand and the goats on the left. Jesus never shed one drop of His precious blood for the goats. In John 17:9 Jesus prays not for the world, but for those the Father has given Him. Surely Jesus would pray for all He was to die for. Matthew 20:28 tells us Christ was a "ransom for many." The key word here is not many, but ransom. If you do not believe in a limited atonement then you do not believe Christ was a sufficient ransom.

There are many other verses I could give, but space will not allow it. I do want to ask one final question to those who

believe Jesus died for all men. Did Jesus shed His blood and suffer hell for Esau, Pharaoh and the rich man in Luke 16, while they were already there suffering the eternal wrath of God? It is a mockery to the blood of our God to say "yes."

4. IRRESISTIBLE GRACE: The question about a man being able to resist the Holy Spirit can be answered, if we answer another question: Who is more powerful, God or man? The Bible resounds with the sovereignty of God and the weakness of man. Man's condition necessitates an effectual call by God. John 6:44 tells us no man can come to Christ except he is drawn by God. John 6:3 tells us, "all that the Father giveth me shall come to me." John 6:63 tells us, "It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing." John 3:27 says, "A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven." Psalm 110:3 tells us God's people shall be willing in the day of God's power.

5. PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS: To me one of the plainest teachings of the Word of God is Eternal Security. I will just give you some verses here and urge you to study them if this subject gives you any trouble: John 3:15, 16, 36; John 6:35; 37, 39, 40, 47, 50, 54, 58; John 10:27-29; Rom. 6:23, 8:28-34, 38, 39. There are countless others; however, if you would not believe these, you will not believe no matter how many were produced.

I believe we have shown that Arminianism is truly a curse relative to the Word of God. If you believe or teach Arminianism, you are practicing that which is a curse and may God reveal to you, the truth.

Secondly, let us notice Arminianism is a curse relative to a triune God. If only Arminians would realize the assault they make on the character of our God. This is the worst curse of all. How we ought to try every doctrine by the attributes of God! How can God be omnipotent if He can not save whomever His soul desires? How can God be just if He punishes men in hell for sins which Christ has already died for? How can God be all-wise if His plan of salvation has failed?

May the Arminian give serious consideration to these questions and realize what his belief does to the character of

our God. If Arminianism is true, then our God is indeed the biggest failure and fraud this world has ever known. Oh, how I thank God Arminianism is not true! If it were true, the soul of every human being would be doomed for eternity. May we realize what a terrible assault this is on our God and fight against it. May we denounce this heresy with our last breath, if God so desire; let us fight for the honor of our God. May this error cause us to stand even more firmly on the truth of salvation by God's sovereign grace. May it cause us to be more diligent in serving God, realizing He is able to do all things and is not subservient to the will of man.

Thirdly, let us notice that Arminianism is a curse relative to lost mankind. I firmly believe this is one of the greatest inventions the old devil ever came up with. He realized how proud man was and so devised a false plan of salvation whereby-by man could do his part and rob God of His glory. You say, but look at all the professions that the Arminians are getting. I'm afraid that is about all they are—professions. I doubt if half of the decisions which are made in the ranks of Arminianism are God-wrought decisions. When I think of the games and gimmicks people use in order to get these decisions, I am more convinced than ever that the majority of these are simply made two-fold more a child of hell.

I fear that a great number of these professions are nothing more than emotionalism. I am not saying no one has ever been saved under Arminian preaching, I am saying they were not saved because of the preaching, but in spite of it. They do sometimes get enough of the gospel into their games that the Spirit uses it to bring a dead sinner to life. This does not, however, by any means excuse anyone for preaching this damnable heresy. In reality, no more are saved by the Arminian theology than by the grace theology. Both save only those who believe, so why belittle the name of our God by making Him a failure in the cases of those that go to hell.

I wish I had space to go into some of the high pressure tactics I have seen and heard of in the Arminian's attempt to get man to make a decision. Let us shun this kind of preaching and may we preach against it. Let us fight against this doctrine of the devil by telling the truth before the Arminian gets a chance to tell his lie. May we always just preach the gospel and leave the saving in the hands of our great God. He has done a marvelous job for six thousand years, I feel certain He is able to continue. But let us not let down our

responsibility to preach the gospel to all men, for it is by the foolishness of preaching God chose to save those that believe. Thank God for the privilege of being used in bringing souls to Christ!

Fourthly, Arminianism is a curse relative to the Lord's true churches. When I use the term true churches I am referring to Landmark, Missionary, Sovereign Grace Baptist Churches. I do not for a moment believe that everything which wears the name Baptist is a true church. In fact, I have to wonder if most of them are nothing more than inventions of the devil to usurp the place of the Lord's true churches. Those churches that say they are Baptist and do not hold to the doctrines of grace are a curse to the Lord's true Churches. These institutions are wearing the Baptist name, but are not holding to the historic position of Baptist people. The Bible says the church is to be the pillar and ground of the truth and, certainly, those teaching Arminianism are not pillars of the truth.

I firmly believe a church started in Arminianism is not a true church of Jesus Christ. I base this on the fact that like begats like. Those churches that were started right and have since gone into Arminianism, I believe God will grant them a space for repentance, but we should be very slow in fellowshiping them and accepting their baptism. Let us remember these churches are not helping us fight for the truth, but are at times our strongest enemies. May we not brag on these institutions as I have heard some of our brethren do, but renounce them for the heretics they are. So, as these churches usurp the place of the Lord's true churches, they are truly a curse.

Fifthly, Arminianism is a curse relative to saved people. The ideal situation would be for all of the saved to believe the same truth and work together for the promotion of that truth. Arminianism serves as a divider of God's people. (How can two walk together except they be agreed!) It is our duty to divide before we tolerate these heresies. It is also a curse to saved people, as this heresy will lead to other heresies. A close examination of Arminian churches will usually produce many other errors. Arminianism, also, encourages wrong motives in Christian service. The games, and gimmicks, the mourners bench, long invitations and the bribery are very much a result of Arminianism.

It will also lead to a great deal of service in the energy of the flesh. I remember being in a so-called Baptist Church in which there was no preaching, just singing. The men and women alike were shouting to beat the band. The Holy Spirit never led a woman to shout in Church. If Arminianism were truly acted on, our Christian life would be a failure. One of the most important aspects of our Christian life is faith. How can we put unwavering faith in a God that has failed and must have the permission of man before He can do certain things? A consistent Arminian can't even pray to God for the saving of a soul. He must, if he is going to be consistent, pray to man. He has already said God is doing all He can, so what good does it do to pray.

It should put us to shame, who know the truth, for not serving our God better. The doc-

trines of grace are a great force in the life of those who truly believe them. We need to adorn these doctrines with holy lives. Isn't it good to know we serve a sovereign God? That with our God all things are possible. A God that is able to comfort, strengthen, protect, and save those whom He desires to save. Surely, by observation we see that Arminianism is a curse relative to the saved.

Let us ask the question, if Arminianism is such damnable heresy, then why does God allow it to exist? I think we have the answer in I Corinthians 11:19: "For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you." Arminianism does not defeat God's purpose, but is allowed by God to exist that those who will study and stand for the truth might be approved before God. I assure you God will, in His due time, destroy this heresy. I promise you there will be no Arminianism in heaven. Those who were Arminians on this earth will be made believers in Sovereign Grace when they are perfected.

Lastly, if Arminianism is such a curse, what should our attitude and actions be toward it? First, we should hate Arminianism. We should be as David and through God's precepts hate every false way. There is nothing in this heresy that should appeal to God's people.

I have heard some of our brethren talk about how loving Arminians are. If this is true of you, then you have probably done a poor job in standing for the truth. From where I sit, our major enemies to the doctrines of grace are not the protestants, but are those so-called Baptists that are Arminian in their belief and practice. As for me, I have no sympathy whatsoever for this heresy. I think it is damnable heresy and blasphemous to the character of my sovereign God. Secondly, we should fight against this heresy. We should not sit around silent as the Arminians preach their devil's doctrine. Let us lift loud our voices in opposition to this evil.

Thirdly, we should proselyte. It should be our desire that our loved ones know the truth. We should seek to lead all saved people to the truth of salvation solely by the grace of God. Fourthly, we should pray for those in error on this subject. I feel this is a subject of very great importance. I believe it is God's revealed desire that we not only know we are saved, but we know how we are saved. If others are going to see this truth, it must be by the power of God. Fifthly, we should stand for the truth no matter what. Even if it means our life, let us stand for salvation by grace. Sixthly, we should praise our God that saw fit in his mercy to save such unworthy, hell-deserving sinners. That he chose us in Christ from the foundation of the world, while passing others by. That Christ died for us (the elect) on an old rugged cross: and that the Holy Spirit took the preached gospel and made it effectual in bringing us to Christ. That He granted unto us repentance and faith. Oh, how we ought to love our God! How we ought to be willing to sacrifice everything dear to us in order to serve Him better!

I feel I have offered sufficient evidence to prove Arminianism is a curse. By God's grace may we recognize it as the evil it is. May God bless you is my prayer!

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	\$3,436.09
Expenditures:	
Labor	\$ 927.17
Printing	\$ 906.54
Postage	\$ 597.33
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Taxes (FICA-Labor)	\$ 179.43
Misc.	\$ 3.95
Total	
Expenditures	\$2,651.92
Balance, ending	
September 30	\$ 784.17

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER  
NOVEMBER 20, 1982  
PAGE EIGHT