

Never take a pen in hand while there is a feeling of anger in the heart.

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ABORTION: A CHRISTIAN ISSUE

by Kenneth Leonard
Boonsboro, Md.

Foreword
In times of crisis, God has always called forth committed men to underscore His unmistakable will — as revealed in the Bible. Yet, far too many Christians, as well as nonbelievers, ignore these spokesmen for the Lord and rely instead upon highly charged emotional reactions or syrupy sentimentality as the basis for their opinions and attitudes.

The abortion issue has caused surprisingly little outcry among



Kenneth Leonard

Christians, evangelicals, fundamentalists and yes, I hear very little from Baptist ministers or churches. As a matter of fact, I sent out over a thousand letters in a two-month period asking for help and to join me in this fight to save the lives of our babies in the Hagerstown-Washington County area. I did not receive one response from any church or pastor that claimed to be born-again. To our sorrow and shame, I did receive response from the Roman Catholic churches.

I believe the reason for the silence on the part of Christians
(Continued on Page 6 Column 1)

MISSIONARY

The Baptist Examiner

Baptist Is Our Middle Name

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

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THE LITTLE LAD AND MISSIONS

Fred Halliman

Missionary to New Guinea

John 6:1-14: While the first fourteen verses of this chapter should be read in order to get a full picture of what is before us, we will deal mainly with verses five through nine: "When Jesus then lifted up His eyes, and saw a great company come unto Him, He saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this He said to prove him: for He himself knew what He would do, Philip answered him, two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto Him, There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?"

The feeding of the multitude is a missionary parable. No doubt, that when Jesus broke that material bread to appease the physical hunger on the shore of Galilee that evening, He had in His vision the infinitely larger multitude of men and women the world over and centuries across, starving not for material

food, but for THE BREAD OF LIFE.

In this passage of Scripture, and another one we will note later on, we learn that Jesus SAW, that He FELT, and that He ACTED. That He saw sug-



Fred Halliman

gests vision: that He felt suggests compassion; that He acted suggests consecration.

I. THE NEED OF VISION.
"When Jesus then lifted up His eyes," He saw a great multitude of hungry people. In this, He stood out in contrast to

His disciples, for they did not lift up their eyes, and hence did not share in His vision. In this we see mirrored a large proportion of Christ's professed followers today.

1. In the first place, theirs was a selfish vision. Let us note just how much selfishness has been responsible for the failure of the Lord's Churches down through history, to carry out the Lord's Commission.

(a) There is personal selfishness. This consists in one's own personal comfort, ease, and all types of indulgences, and most have never "lifted up their eyes" to behold the needs of others. There have always been the "favored few" in most any age and any country, but for the past four decades most Americans have been blessed with so much that the majority of folk now are unconsciously selfish. Comfort, ease and all types of indulgences, for the most part, have become a way of life for most people and, to such an extent, that many have lost the vision of the need of others
(Continued on Page 5 Column 1)

HAGAR AND SARAH

by Willard Willis

"My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you, I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you. Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye hear the law? For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the



Willard Willis

one by a bondmaid, the other by a free woman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the free woman was by promise. Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the
(Continued on Page 6 Column 4)

CHRISTMAS

by Medford Caudill
Saipan Missionary

Roman Catholicism is not a Christian religion. It is the ancient Babylonian mystery religion with some of the ancient names changed, but all of its practices left intact.

Those churches which came



Medford Caudill

out of the Romish grip during the reformation did restore much that was contained in primitive christianity to their worship. They did contain, and still do contain, many in their number who are regenerated and trusting in Jesus Christ as
(Continued on Page 3 Column 2)

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Joseph M. Wilson

WHAT BAPTIST CHURCHES HAVE THAT OTHER CHURCHES DO NOT HAVE

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

There are three great errors in the religious world relative to churches. One is that there is not much difference between churches. The man who says this speaks a deliberate falsehood, or is totally ignorant of the truth in this matter. There are many very important differences between organizations that call themselves churches. The second is that one church is as good as another. Since there are many important differences between churches, this statement cannot be true. The third is that it does not matter what church you join. Understand that I insist that salvation is the most important matter of all. However, I do believe that, for saved people, the most important matter in their spiritual life is that of what church they join and their

attitude towards and activity within that church. This sermon is a refutation of these three errors of the religious world.

Please understand that, by no stretch of the imagination, am I to be counted as a "priesthood of the church" man. I considered this to be heresy the first time I heard it. Now, that it is grown greatly in what it involves, I consider it to be a greater and more dangerous heresy. I adamantly and vehemently oppose this very new doctrine which originated in the brain of man. I do not believe at all that true churches have all the priesthood men credit to them. There are many things which belong to believers simply as believers, whether they are members of true churches or not, and we should credit them with such. Having said this, I say also that there are many things which believers have only if they are members of

true churches. Yes, there are many things which Baptist churches have that other churches do not have. These things should decide the question for every saved person as to the church they should join.

Please understand that when I speak of a Baptist Church I am talking about a true Baptist church: A Sovereign Grace Landmark Baptist Church. I am not referring to anything and everything which calls itself by this glorious and honorable name. A lady said to me recently that her pastor had often said that he wished they would take the name "Baptist" off their church. I replied that I wished they would too. I wish that all churches which call themselves by this name, but are not true Baptist churches would take down their sign. If they wear the name, let them play the game. If these man-made organizations
(Continued on Page 2 Column 1)

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The Baptist Examiner

THE BAPTIST PAPER FOR
THE BAPTIST PEOPLE

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WHAT

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would do this, maybe members therein who think they are Baptists would get out and get in true Baptist churches. I consider it to be highly dishonorable and very deceptive for a religious organization to wear the Baptist name, if they are not true Baptist churches, and I mean true in their origin, history, doctrines and practices, amen and amen!! Now let us get to our subject.

Baptist churches have a Divine origin whereas other churches were started by men or worse. Jesus said, "...I will build my church." Baptist churches were started by Jesus Christ in the land of Palestine during His earthly ministry. All other so called churches were started by men and started since the days of Jesus Christ on earth. Therefore, as far as Jesus Christ is higher than any man, so far are Baptist churches ahead of all other churches.

Make the roll call of the organizations which call themselves churches. Beside their names we can give the time of their origin and the name of their human founder. You and I know that this is true. Men agree totally on this matter. But when we call the name "Baptist," those who refuse to believe the truth that Jesus Christ started Baptist churches cannot agree as to the human name they want to honor as its founder. I should say dishonour, for it is a grave dishonor to any man to be listed as the founder of a church. Now, answer this question. Why is it that men can agree as to who started the ... church, and the ... church, and the ... church without a dissenting voice, but they cannot agree as to who started the Baptist church? Answer that. Is it because Jesus started the Baptist church, and they will not accept this? Yes it is! Surely you will agree that it is a great advantage to be started by Jesus Christ rather than by man.

Well, Baptist Churches have this advantage.

Secondly, Baptist Churches have a Divine head: even Jesus Christ; whereas other churches have human heads. "And he is the head of the body, the church:" (Col. 1:18). "...Christ is the head of the church..." (Eph. 5:23). The church spoken of in these Scriptures can only be a Baptist Church for no other church was in existence at that time. We learn that it is the great honor and glory of Baptist churches to have Jesus Christ for their head of authority. We do not get our marching orders from any man



Joe Wilson

or group of men. Jesus is king in His church. We take our orders from Him, and endeavor to follow those orders in the power of the Holy Spirit. Other churches have human heads. Some have one-man dictatorial heads. Some have a group of men in council or assembly or session, or whatever name they choose to go by. Oh, it is a dishonor to any man to be called the head of a church. Jesus is the head of the church. Shall any man or devil dare to seek to take the crown from His head and usurp the crown rights of King Jesus. Yes, they have and they do, but to their great shame. Would you not rather be a member of a church with Jesus as its head than one with sinful, failing man as such? Tell me now. Then, why are you not a member of a Baptist church?

Thirdly, Baptist churches have the promise of a perpetuity until the coming of Jesus Christ, while all other churches have the warning that they shall surely be rooted up. Jesus said of His church, "...the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." He said of other churches, "...Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up." The former quote is in Matthew 16:18, and the latter in Matthew 15:13. Do we believe — yea, do we know — that Jesus Christ has kept this promise? Yes, we do. Therefore, there are true Baptist churches in the world today. To deny this is to make a liar out of Him who is Incarnate Truth: even Jesus Christ. Beloved, I tell you that every church in this world today besides Baptist churches is a standing monument to man's depraved unbelief of the Word of God. Every other church in the world today is a standing testimony that its founder, all its past and present members, and all who call it "church" do not believe in the truthfulness of Jesus Christ. What a terrible indictment against these churches! Terrible, yes, but true! Now, since Jesus started a church, is the head of that church, promised that church perpetuity, has kept that promise; should not every saved person be a member of that church? To ask the question in this way is surely to

answer it.

Now, it is not the province of history to prove the Word of God, but it can be an illustration thereof. History bears its witness to the truthfulness of the promise of Jesus Christ in that there have been Baptist churches in every day of history from that time Jesus started the first one, and that there are some here today. The glorious blood-mark of Baptist churches stain every page of history from that day. History has also witnessed to the uprooting of many man-made churches, and will eventually bear witness to the uprooting of the last one of them in the middle of the Tribulation when the Roman Catholic Church will be finally, completely and forever blotted from the earth. Other churches come and go and will eventually be gone forever, but Baptist churches continue till the coming of the Lord, and faithful members of such churches continue as the Bride of Jesus Christ through eternity.

Fourthly, Baptist churches have the truth whereas other churches have some truth they have gotten from Baptists and some error they have gotten from other sources. In Revelation 1:20 we learn that the candlesticks are the churches. A candlestick is a light holder. The light they are to hold is the Word of God. Therefore, Baptist churches have been given the Word of God and are to shine its blessed light upon the mid-night darkness of this world. In Matthew 5:15 we learn that the believer is given a light which he is to put on the candlestick. Therefore every believer is to join a true Baptist church. You saved people, do have a light, but if you are not a member of a Baptist church, you are hiding your light. No saved person has obeyed the command of Jesus Christ to put his light on a candlestick until he has joined a Baptist Church.

"The house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (I Tim. 3:15). Now this church of the living God here is not that religious organization that goes by that name, and of which I was a member several years ago. That organization was started by a man about seventy years ago in Spray, N.C. The church mentioned in I Timothy 3:15 was in existence when Paul wrote this letter. Further the church men call by this name does not teach the truth whereas the church in I Timothy 3:15 is the pillar and ground of the truth. The church in this Scripture is a Baptist church and is called the church of the living God because it belongs to God. Here we see that Baptist churches have the truth and are to preserve and propagate that truth. In Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus commissions His church to teach the whole truth. Now, other churches have some truth also. They have the truth they have gotten from Baptists. However, they also have much error. They got this error from other sources, most of it from the Catholics. In fact, you can take out of any so called church what is Catholic and what is left will be Baptist, or take out of it what is Baptist and what is left will be Catholic. This is almost totally true.

Brother, you can go to a garbage can, dig through the garbage, and come up with some food upon which you will be able to exist or you can go to the table where the wife has prepared a delicious wholesome

FROM THE EDITOR

THE READER'S DIGEST AND EDITOR (BIBLE EXPERT) BRUCE M. METZGER OF PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY ARE UNDER THE CURSE OF GOD.

"And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book" (Rev. 22:18).

"Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it" (Deut. 4:2).

The Reader's Digest has come out with its condensed edition of the Bible. This condensing of the Word of God was supervised by Bruce M. Metzger. The two Scriptures cited above clearly reveal that this man, the Reader's Digest, and all connected with this new "bible" are under the curse of God. They have laid unholy hands upon the "sacred ark" of the Bible, and the anger of the Lord is kindled against them (II Sam. 6:6-7). They had best beware lest God smite them for their error.

The Reader's Digest new, condensed "bible" takes 320,000 words from the over 800,000 of the King James Version, thus shortening the Bible by 40%. They have taken away from the words of the Bible, and according to Revelation 22:18, God will take away their part from the book of life and from the holy city. What an awful position they are now in before God!

Who do these men think they are? Are they wiser than God? Has God asked their help in editing His Holy Word? Does He need their help? Is the all wise God of the Bible unable to set forth in a Book that which He would have men to know? What awful pride these men have manifested in this act of editing the Word of God. They have publicly said to all the world that they are wiser than God. They have, so they imply, improved upon God's Book, and made it more proper and convenient for man. These men have pitted the wisdom of the worms of earth against that of the God of the bible. Rarely has the pride of man been more evidently set forth than in this effort of man to improve upon the work of God! Surely, God is angry at such an act of unabashed audacity. Surely, God will not recognize this new "bible" of the Reader's Digest as an improved edition of His Holy Word. Surely, God will manifest His anger against those who are involved in this high-handed insult to the God of heaven.

Let it be known that The Baptist Examiner is in the ranks of those who stand uncompromisingly against the Reader's Digest "bible." No favorable comments will appear in this paper on behalf of this blasphemy against God. This "bible" will not be offered for sale in the Calvary Baptist Church bookstore. The Baptist Examiner stands unalterably opposed to men's unholy mishandling of the precious Word of God. This paper and its editor take the stand that the "Textus Receptus" is the providentially preserved record of the inspired originals of the Word of God, and that the King James Version is the very best English translation of that text.

I urge upon all lovers of God's inspired, infallible, inerrant and authoritative Word to take a stand against the Reader's Digest cutting out 40% of God's Word, that they will speak out against this unholy travesty, and will in no wise be found in this enemy's camp.

The Reader's Digest and editorial supervisor Bruce Metzger have taken up Jehoiakim's penknife and continued the awful work of this godless king (Jer. 36:21-30). I call upon them to repent of their sin in this matter, make their repentance public, remove their wicked condensed "bible" from the market, bow in humility before the God of the Bible, receive in God-given faith the whole Bible and honor the holy God of the Bible by public statements of repentance and by doing all in their power to promote proper respect for the whole Word of God. May it please the sovereign God of the Bible to grant such repentance to some, or even to all, who are or will be involved in this attack upon the Bible.

meal and enjoy it to the full. Which would you rather do? You can go to other churches and get some truth, yes, you can. But you will have to dig through piles and piles of garbage to get a little truth — let us say about an ounce of truth to a ton of garbage. You can go to a Baptist church and get a good, well-prepared meal of the precious truth of the Word of God minus the garbage. Which would you rather do? Besides digging through the tons of garbage in man-made churches, you might make a mistake and eat some of that garbage and get a spiritual belly-ache. Some people resent comparing false churches to a garbage can. Well, frankly, I had rather feed my body out of a garbage can than to try and feed my soul in a false, man-made church. Amen!

Fifthly, Baptist churches have a commission from God to properly do the work of the Lord, whereas other churches are free-lance organizations acting without authority from the Lord. Matthew 28:18-20 records the Lord's commissioning and authorizing of His church to do His work in the world today. This authority had to be given to a Baptist church as there was no other church in existence at that time. This authority is transmitted to all churches which have

descended by link-chain succession from that church — and to not other church or religious organization. This means that Baptist Churches are the only organizations on earth who have authority from God to properly do His work. Other churches are man-made and are acting without authority.

All religious organizations such as mission boards, etc., are also without Divine authority. Brother, if you want to properly serve God — and what saved person doesn't — you must join a Baptist church and work as a member of, and under the authority of that church. That is the way it is, and no apologies will be forthcoming for this statement. Down with man made churches and organizations. Upward, forward, and onward with true Baptist churches.

Sixthly, Baptist Churches have the ordinances and can properly observe them whereas other churches cannot. The precious ordinance of Baptism with all its wonderful blessing to the participant, and observer is restricted to a Baptist Church. The wonderfully precious Lord's Supper is also a Baptist Church ordinance. Paul, inspired of God, tells us in I Corinthians 11:2 that the or-

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WHAT

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dinances are given to the church. Other churches can go through the form, but do not and cannot have the reality. Other churches might as well sprinkle or pour and call it baptism. They might as well eat hot dogs and drink Pepsi Cola (I almost forgot how to spell it) and call it the Lord's supper. True Baptists will, of course, immerse for baptism and use real wine and unleavened bread in their observances. But let the other churches do it anyway they desire, for they cannot observe the ordinances as they were never given to them. Understand me well. I am saying — and I am saying it on the authority of the Word of God — that you have never been baptized and you have never observed the Lord's supper unless you have done such under the authority of a Baptist church.

Many other things could be said, and will be said at another time, but I must close this with the mention of one other thing. Baptist churches have the possibility of being in the Bride of Jesus Christ, whereas members of other churches can never even have the possibility of such so long as they remain members thereof. All the saved will most emphatically not be in the Bride of Jesus Christ. John 3:29 informs us that the friend of the bridegroom will not be the bride. Rev. 19:9 informs us that there is a Bride, and a Bridegroom, and that there will be at the wedding those who are neither of these, but are the invited guests. You heretics who say all the saved make up the Bride of Christ, please, oh please, tell me who are these invited guests. A man is blinded by prejudice, ignorance or both, and just will not be honest with the Word of God who says all the saved are in the Bride. If the Bible is clear on any one point, it is surely clear that there are eternally saved people who will not be in the Bride of Jesus Christ.

Further, all who are members of Baptist Churches will not be in the Bride. Just being such is not enough. Revelation 19:7-8 informs us as to this truth. The saved Baptist must also make self ready by the righteousnesses of the saints: that is, by faithfulness and cleanness in a true church, in order to be in the Bride. The Bride is the highest reward for the saints. Yes, the Bible does teach the doctrine of rewards despite the mockery and opposition of man. One must be found at death or the rapture, in the character of a clean and faithful member of a Baptist Church in order to have the reward of being in the Bride of Christ. No, all Baptist Church members will not be in the Bride, but only such, will be in the Bride. One must be a member of a Baptist church to even have the possibility of being a part of Christ's Bride. II Corinthians 11:2, Ephesians 5:21-33, and other Scriptures show us that one must be in the church to be in the Bride, and remember that only Baptist churches are true churches.

Now, remember that I have said that salvation is the matter of supreme importance. Every man ought to repent and believe in Jesus Christ and be saved. Every saved person should forthwith join a true Baptist Church. Every Baptist should be a faithful, clean, loyal, hard-working Baptist. Surely, these things that Baptist Churches have which other churches do not have should settle the ques-

Man could not have written the Bible if he would, and would not if he could.

FROM A PASTOR'S NOTEBOOK

"DEATH IS YOURS."

I Cor. 3:22

I. INTRODUCTION:

1. Bible material for this sermon. Acts 18:1-18; I Cor. chapters 1-3.

2. Review the context of chapter three orally.

II "DEATH IS YOURS."

1. Deal particularly with I Cor. 3:21-23.

A. Their problem - GLORYING IN MEN. See I Cor. 1:11-13.

B. In many circles today we have the same problem. FAVORITE PREACHERS.

C. The BALANCED view is to God's ministers. I Thess. 5:12-13.

D. Two extremes: 1. Make an IDOL of ministers. 2. A DISREGARD of ministers.

2. ALL THINGS belong to believers.

A. The ministers. Paul, Apollos and Cephas.

B. The world. The good and gracious things that God has provided.

C. Life and death. To the glory of God.

D. Things present and things to come.

3. Though these belong to the believer, the believer belongs to Christ, Ver. 23.

III FACTS AS TO DEATH BELONGING TO THE BELIEVER.

1. Death is ours BECAUSE OF SIN. Rom. 5:12.

2. Death is ours UNTO THE LORD. Rom. 14:8.

3. Death is ours TO JOIN US UNTO THE LORD. II Cor. 5:8.

4. Death is ours TO MAGNIFY JESUS CHRIST. Phil. 1:20.

5. Death is ours TO GAIN. Phil. 1:21.

6. Death is ours WHICH IS FAR BETTER. Phil. 1:23.

7. Death is ours AS SLEEP IN JESUS. I Thess. 4:13-14.

8. Death is ours to MAKE US HAPPY. Rev. 14:13.

9. Death is ours TO REST US FROM OUR LABORS. Rev. 14:13.

IV Death is yours too LOST FRIEND. Luke 16:19; 22; 23.

Gordon Buchanan Perry, Ga.

tion for every saved person as to what church he should join and what kind of church member he should be. May GOD richly bless you all!

CHRISTMAS

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their only means of salvation. Baptists, of course, did not come out of Rome for they were never in her. They were not part of the reformation for they had never apostatized and did not need reforming.

Those churches, however, which did come out of Rome never came all the way out. They reformed much, but still left many practices which are not Christian, but rather Babylonish in their nature.

One of those Babylonish practices is the observance of Christmas. This observance is held as the most sacred day of the year by many who call themselves Christians, yet it is not Christian, nor does it have anything to do with Christianity.

Christmas was celebrated long before the birth of Christ. Jeremiah describes the erection of a Christmas tree in Jeremiah



Pastor — Naples Park Baptist Church of Naples Park, Florida

The Baptist Examiner

BIBLE STUDY LESSON

By WILLARD PYLE

Psalm 37:8-15

Intro: The experiences of David have helped the saints down through the ages to know the proper attitude to have in view of the prosperity and practices of the wicked, as their day and dowry will soon end, while the righteous will inherit all things.

VERSE 8

"Cease from anger." The child of God should not allow the provocations of the wicked to stir up unholy anger or the desire to execute vengeance. He is to let not the sun go down upon his wrath.

"And forsake wrath." The saint is to replace anger and wrath with the fruit of the Spirit so he will not fulfil the lust of the flesh. He does this by hiding God's Word in his heart.

"Fret not thyself in any wise to do evil." There is no situation or circumstance which should provide the saint with fuel to enter the highway of the disobedient, or to use his car to carry him to do evil. Fretting is a first step in doing evil; it leads to anger, and then to wrath.

VERSE 9

"For evildoers shall be cut off." The saints are therefore to have no fellowship with them (Eph. 5: 6, 7, 11). They are to come out from among them (II Cor. 6:14). They are to have no friendship with the world (James 4:4). All of the Pharaohs, the Herods, the Belshazzars, and the Hitlers are a witness to this truth.

"But those that wait upon the Lord." All of those who have been brought to see their hopelessness and helplessness; those who understand their wickedness and worthlessness, and who have repented and are at the feet of Jesus (Luke 7:37-38); those who have by faith trusted the provisions provided by the Father (Gen. 22:8; Luke 15:22, 23); those who, in humility, wait for the exaltation promised (I John 3:2).

"They shall inherit the earth." The very thing the wicked lie, cheat, and steal to obtain a portion of; that which rulers have fought to conquer; that which the rich have bid for, shall be the possession of the saints. They, even now on occasions, are blessed with the fruit

10:3, 4. "For the customs of the people are vain; for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not." A person once told me that it's all right to have a Christmas tree as long as you don't put presents under it. When you put presents under it, you are bowing down to it and that is wrong, but just having the tree is all right. Is it all right for me to have a crucifix on my wall, as long as I don't make the sign of the cross before it? Is it all right for me to have a Buddha, as long as I don't chant to it? Is it all right for me to have a statue of Mary, as long as I don't bow down and pray to it? Idols are idols, and whatever excuse we want to make for having them in our home is useless

of the earth, but in the fullest and complete sense will be received in the future.

VERSE 10

"For yet a little while." David again returns to the suddenness and swiftness of the end of the wicked. Their day of pleasure and prosperity is a brief duration. This expression is used in Heb. 10:37 in relation to the second coming of Christ. This, of course, will result in the day of judgment for the wicked, or beginning of it.

"And the wicked shall not be." The wicked may be in the majority and in seeming control, but his climb to the top of the ladder will result in a sudden and complete fall.

"Yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be." His houses and lands and material wealth shall all be swallowed up like Korah and his household (Num. 16:31-33). The stones of judgment shall cover them (Josh. 7:26). All traces of their pomp or glory shall be removed. They shall be as Sodom and Gomorrah! Why then should the child of God look up to them or desire their wealth or position?

VERSE 11

"But the meek shall inherit the earth." The contrast is repeated. The meek and the proud are in different corners. Notice, it is not the weak, but the meek: those who realize their littleness, and rely on God's greatness. The undeserving are made meet for Heaven and for the inheritance (Col. 1:12). "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof" (Ps. 24:1) and He is going to allot it to His sons and His servants.

"And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." Those who had to, on many occasions, flee to the dens and caves of the earth, or who had to feel the cat of nine tails, or the taunts and sneers of the wicked (Heb. 11:36-38) will one day walk to and fro on the earth without any fear or without any trial or temptation; for the Prince of Peace will have provided perfect peace; not only peace with God (Rom. 5:1), and the peace of God (Isa. 26:3, 4), but peace and tranquility on the earth. The child of God will be

before God. A Christmas tree is as much an idol as a crucifix, a Buddha, or a statue of Mary.

It is a well known fact that the celebration of Christmas is simply a continuation of the pagan Saturnalia. It was kept as a great feast by the heathen world long before the time of Christ.

As a Christian, and particularly, as a Baptist, you have no reason to keep Christmas. What would we say of a convert to Christ in a foreign land who wanted to become a Christian, but at the same time wanted to continue to bow to Buddha or Vishnu or to the Shinto shrine? Any missionary worth anything would tell him, "So likewise whoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:33). With Christ it is all or nothing. Forsake your idolatrous Christmas tree,

surrounded by serenity and beauty.

VERSE 12

"The wicked plotteth against the just." This describes the present conditions on this earth, for the seed of the serpent is at enmity with the seed of the woman (Gen. 3:15). The wicked with malice afore thought seek to rid themselves of the just, for they love darkness rather than light. The greatest evidence of this is their action against Christ Himself (Acts 4:26, 27). This is little realized by the saints of God in this age in which we live.

"And gnasheth upon him with his teeth." The wicked intend not merely to hurt, but to destroy. He is blood thirsty, and will not rest until he sinks his teeth into the just.

VERSE 13

"The Lord shall laugh." While the wicked celebrate their seeming victory, the Lord smiles, for He takes them in their contentment while they are asleep. Their loud boastings and braggings merely bring smiles from God.

"For He seeth that his day is coming." This is for our benefit, for we, too, should keep in memory the end of the wicked. While the wicked plot against the just, God in justice has decreed their judgment.

VERSE 14

"The wicked have drawn out the sword and have bent their bow." Their plottings have turned into actual warfare as the wicked move to get ready.

"To cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation." Their target is apparent; they are looking for the followers of the Lord.

VERSE 15

"Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken." As they strike, they either fall on their own sword, or it is deflected or broken and kills them. It is, also, possible that as in the story of David and the giant, the saints, or even angels, will be used to take away their swords and inflict judgment.

Conclusion: This should give the saints encouragement and renewed determination to be faithful.

whatever the cost. Give up your Babylonish practices and follow the way of Christ, Who is the truth and the life.

Strange, is it not, that of all the commands our Lord gave His servants in the New Testament, not once did He command us to celebrate His birthday in any way, shape, or form. Not once did he mention sending out cards or presents. Not once did he command the decorating of a tree. Not one word did He give us concerning yule logs or mistletoe.

I do not observe Christmas because it is a compromise between paganism and Catholicism. I am neither a pagan nor a Catholic. If you are a Christian and a Baptist, you ought not to celebrate it either.

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DECEMBER 18, 1982
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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

Please explain Matthew 12:31-32; Mark 3:28-29; Luke 12:9-10 in detail as to blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Does this have anything to do with blasphemy against the Holy Spirit in your thoughts?

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These passages speak of what is commonly known as the unpardonable sin. Let us make several observations about this sin which will help us understand the sin here committed.

First, if this is an unpardonable sin, then it could not and has never been committed by one of God's elect. Surely the only reason for this is the restraining power of God preventing us from committing this sin. One would not be allowed in heaven even if they were cleansed from every sin but one.

Secondly, let us try and find out exactly what this sin is. I will say that this is far easier to say than to do. If we had a perfect understanding of this Book, then it wouldn't be God's Book. I want to state that this sin is not the sinner resisting the Spirit of God. Any person who believes that man has the power to resist the working of the Spirit has no understanding of God or man. I believe this sin was one that was restricted to the earthly ministry of Christ. What this sin involved was attributing the works of the Spirit through Christ to the devil. I believe the context will bear this out, as they were accusing Christ of casting out devils by the power of the devil. Also, the account of Mark in verse thirty says, "Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit." If there is such a sin in this day, it would be the same as in Christ's day; man attributing the Spirit's work to the devil or perhaps vice versa.

I would also say, yes, it did have to do with their thoughts. Matthew 12:25 says, "And Jesus knew their thoughts." May we all realize that our God not only sees the outward actions, but also the inward attitudes.

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The sin in question is often scripturally referred to as, "The Unpardonable Sin." The word, "pardon," means to let off without payment. In the strict sense of the word, all sins are unpardonable, for every sin must be paid for, either in and by the substitutionary death of Christ, or by the endless suffering of the unatoned-for-sinner in hell.

Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is an eternal sin of a par-

ticular nature, for it is this sin which unquestionably manifests the reprobate character, and identifies those who deliberately and malignantly oppose the teachings of the Spirit of truth.

Collectively speaking the Pharisees, Sadducees, and scribes were declared enemies of Christ, and the common people were His friends (Mk. 12:37). The Lord's casting out of demons and healing of demoniacs deeply impressed the multitudes, and at the same time aroused the extreme indignation and resentment of His enemies. The anger of His enemies on this occasion was expressed by accusing Christ of having "an unclean spirit," to which they accredited the miracle. Christ highlights the illogic of their argument by asking, "How can Satan cast out Satan?" (Mk. 3:23). And then goes on to tell them of the awful nature of their sin.

Christ says all blasphemy against the Son of Man may be forgiven, men may infinitely multiply their insults and lay them upon Christ, and yet be forgiven of them all, but once men blaspheme the Holy Spirit, they shall not in this world nor in the world to come ever be forgiven (Mk. 3:29). Christians cannot be guilty of the sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, for they are eternally indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and it is His ministry to sanctify the believer by showing him the things of Christ, which most certainly precludes blasphemy against Himself, for this is of the devil and not of Christ.

Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is not that of a hasty or senseless word, but that which emanates from a deep-seated hatred of Christ, whereby the honor of the gracious work of the Holy Spirit is given to the devil.

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"All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Spirit hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:" (Mark 3:28-29).

These passages of Scripture have been used over and over by Arminian preachers in order to scare people into making a confession of faith. They make them to mean that if one resists the Holy Spirit for so long that there will come a time when the Holy Spirit will depart from that person and never return. They say that when this happens that person can never be saved even though he wants to be. They use the expression, "He has sinned away his day of grace" or "he has crossed over the dead line" or "he has committed the unpardonable sin."

By a study of these passages we see that the Arminian belief is entirely foreign to the Word of God. As Brother Gilpin used to say, "The only thing wrong with it is, there is NOT a word of truth in it."

To see what is meant by these passages, we first see, after Jesus had cast out the unclean spirits (Mark 3:11), the scribes tried to explain this by saying it was through the power of Beelzebub, the prince of devils, that He did this. Jesus answered them by saying all sins might be forgiven men except one. That sin, the scribes had just committed. The sin was that they had attributed the work of Christ unto Satan, "And the scribes — said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of devils casteth He out devils" (Mark 3:22). Jesus then spoke the words concerning blasphemies, "Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit" (Mark 3:30).

From this study we see that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is committed by those who attribute the work of the Holy Spirit to Satan. I might add, I believe that this sin will be committed by only a relatively few people.

As to a person committing this sin in his thoughts, we read in Proverbs 23:7, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:"

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All sins, irrespective of the magnitude of vituperation, are two-directional, that is, against both God and man.

First, in relating this, our Lord affirms that "All manner of sin and blasphemy (sin of extreme irreverence) shall be forgiven men" (Mt. 12:30). This statement, as evidenced, does not apply unto all men without exception, because there are many (the non-elect) who are never (in forgiveness) drawn to the Lord by the Father, as related in John 6:44.

Then, again, our Lord affirms, in a very distinct manner, that "All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme" (Mk. 3:28). So, again, in this instance, it is obvious that our Lord is relating only to the elect of God, who, (in forgiveness), are effectually drawn by God, the Father, to the Son, as related in John 6:44.

Such drawing is marvelously exemplified in Saul (Paul), who was guilty of blasphemy against the Son of man. In this, while he was a Pharisee, he truly thought that he should do many things contrary to Jesus. Then, as one of the elect of God, he was convicted of the error of his ways by the Lord of glory,

and was granted pardoning grace and mercy through the efficacy of the blood and mediation of Christ, as effectuated by the agency of the Holy Spirit, in being drawn by the Father (John 6:44).

Next, in regard to the sin of denial, our Lord affirmed that "he that denieth Me before men shall be denied before the angels of God" (Lk. 12:9). This, no doubt, relates only to the non-elect, who deny Christ publicly, and persists in it. Hence, the same will be denied by Christ, as belonging to Him, because He knoweth them who are His, as given by the Father.

In the beginning of this delineation of sin, we have a "blasphemy" which is forgivable; but now we are confronted with "blasphemy" which is not forgivable, in that it speaks of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, which consisted in ascribing to Satan the work of the Holy Spirit, as related in Matthew 12:31, 32. This was the sin of the Scribes and Pharisees, which was committed in wilful and obstinate malice, in order to lessen the glory of God and also to gratify their own lusts. Too, this was to obscure the glory of Christ, and also, to indulge their wicked passions and resentments against Christ. This sin, in particular, was unpardonable at that present time, as well as under the immediate dispensation that followed, when, at Pentecost, the Church was imbued with authority for their ministry of the gospel by the Holy Spirit.

So, in contrasting between the "blasphemy" against Christ, and the "blasphemy" against the Holy Spirit, some have imagined a greater sanctity (sensitivity) of the Holy Spirit; but this is not true as to any Person in the Trinity. But, rather, the contrast is between slandering "the Son of man" in His incarnate and veiled form, when, as yet, His work was not finished.

Consequently, though perfect (sinless), He was made in the likeness of sinful flesh, was so regarded by many, as not unlike themselves, yet a very extraordinary man. Yes, while in this state of being, even the apostles stumbled at many things; but, being of the elect of God, they were open to conviction on further enlightenment. But, on the other hand, to blaspheme Christ in a more extreme manner, by ascribing His works to Satan at that time, was to "blaspheme the Holy Spirit." This, in turn, characterized them as "non-elect," and, therefore, reprobate concerning "the faith of the elect."

SALVATION GOD'S WAY

by Roy Snell

It is an inescapable, undeniable, irrefutable truism that the elect of God are "safe" yea even before that they are saved. To wit: "as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world," then all the devils in this universe could not have thwarted God's eternal purpose of accepting us in the Beloved.

I am in no wise and in no measure a "Hardshell," believing firmly that the Sovereign Lord who has ordained eternal life for His own, has also ordained the means of revealing His Son to those of His choosing. And that such "means" is the

eternal Word of God. Not necessarily the preachment in the formal evangelistic service, where people have been fasting and praying for three weeks, and where our Lord can move if He so chooses, but also via the radio or television ministry — or the Word of God on a cassette tape. The senior L. E. Maxwell, past head of the L. E. Maxwell, past head of the Prairie Bible Institute in Canada, once said that if the devil in person stood on the street corner and preached from God's Holy Word, some might hear and be saved. Remember Isaiah 55:1? God never mentioned the qualifications of the speaker — only that the Word would accomplish that for which it was intended. So let that one who believes the Holy Spirit can and does quicken a sinner apart from the hearing of the Word be allowed to continue on his way, meanwhile you sovereign grace New Testament Baptist be instant in season, out of season and preach the Word to every creature. God knows them that are His — and He will do the calling and drawing.

Unsolicited advice is generally also unappreciated, and probably unheeded, but I am going to pass this along anyway — no charge. There are many Baptists engaged from time to time in evangelistic meetings. Many of the more "baptistic" minded will fully endorse Jonah 2:9; "Salvation is of the Lord." And John 15:16: "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you." Yet, there sincere brethren, coming to the close of an evangelistic sermon, will then launch out into a spiel which puts the Arminians to shame. I hear ministers declare that no man can come unless the Father draw him — while declaring to all and sundry that "nothing I may say can possibly move you, the Spirit must do that." Then, while the organist plays softly and with no one leaving, that good man will spend the next 15 minutes in an "altar" call. No one leaving, every head bowed, every eye closed. No one looking around while I attempt to inveigle that reluctant and unwilling sinner to "make a decision." What a charade and silly travesty as compared to the Biblical way of salvation!

There is beyond doubt an unfeigned concern in the hearts of many for that unsaved person in the audience, hence the extended appeals for some evidence or movement among the hearers. However, sometimes I get the impression that a personal ego might just figure into this matter. Or possibly a measure of fear that the church might be moved to dismiss one who produces no visible results — no decisions, no baptisms. What's wrong here? So our otherwise "good" Baptist minister allows himself to lapse into the Charles Finney mode and method of persuading someone, anyone, please walk these aisles. As a resulting consequence we are subjected to pleading, begging, promising, cajoling, wheedling, threatening and even entrapment to produce some results. Yes, even with every eye closed, that deacon is a dedicated "personal worker" and he will get you. He cheated — and peeped.

Are you not aware that there is no Biblical foundation, no Scriptural teaching by word, or example, or precept, no basis and no justification in God's Word for such practices and procedure in the New Testament assembly? Has it never occurred to you that if a sinner (Continued on Page 5 Column 1)

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(Continued from Page 4)

needs to be begged, and is only partly or half ready to respond, then he isn't ready at all? Go ahead, tear him off the vine before he is ripe — and he will spoil on you.

If any man, bar none, must needs be wheedled and cajoled into receiving this God of glory, this omnipotent King of the Universe, this thrice holy, only begotten Son of the one and only Lord from all eternity, such a man simply isn't ready to lay his hand to the plow.

Pastor, will you then dare to return to the "old" paths of Jeremiah 6:16? Will you then preach the origin of sin and the exceeding sinfulness of the practice? Will you extol the results of such sin and the wrath of a holy God against sin — and the sinner? Now, and only now, are you ready to present the sinner with the only hope under heaven. Jesus said that if I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me. A primary and a secondary application here — in that He has already been lifted up to hang between heaven and earth for you and me. Equally as important now that He be lifted up via the preached Word. You do that — He does the rest — the drawing, the saving, the keeping. Certainly, invite the listeners to receive this Christ.

Now the onus is off your shoulders, the blood is off your hands — and you can now dispense with that interminable harangue — you know, the way grandpa did it and the way we have always done it.

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(Continued from Page 1)

regarding the preaching of the gospel. Americans are a very vulnerable people. No one knows this any better than Satan. Then, is it any wonder that we have so many ungodly and tempting commercials brought right into the homes of almost every American today? Beloved, all this is not due solely to the ingenuity of the American people, but is the result of a special designer who has a special design in mind.

For many decades now the American people have been blessed with the opportunity to literally saturate the world with the gospel of Christ. The God of this world knows that and has gone to extreme lengths to see that most of the available money goes elsewhere. By design, the great designer, has kept before the eyes of the people everything imaginable that would take their money and keep it from being used by God-called men for mission work. Instead of being bondslaves to Christ, most people today, including almost all professing Christians, are slaves to the gadgets and gimmicks created by this master designer. This has resulted in a generation of people being so enamored with the things of this world, that they have become unconsciously selfish, and have almost completely lost the vision of the need of the gospel being preached to others.

(b) **There is religious selfishness.** This is represented in costly church buildings, rich adornment, elaborate ritual, and denominational ambition. One might ask, What is wrong with a fine church building, etc? The answer is nothing, unless that is the prime reason for the church existing. If after a church has engaged herself in carrying out the great commis-

sion to her fullest, seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and then, all these other things have been added unto them. I say praise the Lord and Amen. But the solemn fact is that many church groups have spent, are spending and will continue to spend for years to come, almost all their available income at the expense of doing mission work. What vision they may have had has had to be pushed to one side due to their obligations to meet the bills on the elaborate church building and its furnishings.

Beloved, our Lord has some mighty strong warnings for the Church at Ephesus because she had lost her first love (her zeal and love for mission work), and some mighty harsh things about the Church at Pergamos because she had gone so far as to hold the doctrines of Balaam and the Nicolaitanes. I believe that Nicolaitanism alludes to a costly, ritualistic and a priestly system of worship, and that Balaamism alludes to churches becoming so enamored with this world that it is difficult to find any truth in them. But whatever these two doctrines may mean, it has caused the Lord's Churches to lose sight of a vision for mission work.

Since the beginning of Protestantism, denominational ambition has grown and continues to grow at the expense of the local church, and this has a direct bearing on a vision for missions. In a Bible Conference that I attended, which was a missionary conference mainly, in the forum of one of the afternoon sessions, a Southern Baptist asked for permission to speak a few words. He got so enamored with the policies and programs of Conventionism that it was evident to all that he has completely lost sight of the functions, duties, and obligations of the local church. The result of such thinking is that folk leave their first love. They have become so entangled in the web of Conventionism that they have lost sight of their vision for missions.

Denominational ambition results in churches pooling their money and the most of it is used for costly hospitals, orphanages, old folks homes, etc. A few years back, I talked to a man who was a member of a Southern Baptist Church, and he boasted long and loud about the fact that the Southern Baptist Convention owned six blocks right down town in one of our leading cities of the south. When I ask this man what they were doing for missions at his church, he could only tell me that they had a "mission program," but he did not know much about it. What had gone wrong here? The Convention had swallowed up the local church, had caused the church to become religiously selfish and to lose their vision for missions.

(c) **There is spiritual selfishness.** Those Jews that were with our Lord that day on the shore of Galilee, had all their life been entrenched in their orthodox Jewish beliefs. So it is today. Many churches and individuals pride themselves in, and glory in, orthodoxy that is cold and dead, and never stooping to extend a helping hand to needy sinners. I believe that every individual ought to be a firm believer in and practice all the truths of God's Word. But when any individual or church gets hung up on one or two doctrines at the expense of the rest of the Word of God they have a cold, and for the most part, dead religious life. Some

preachers will preach long and loud for the most part, dead religious life. Some preachers will preach long and loud on the sovereignty of God (and that should be preached), but will throw the precious doctrine of the Lord's Church right out the window and never mention it. On the other hand, others will spend almost all their time on the doctrine of the Church and, seldom if ever, mention the precious doctrines of grace. So, rather than "preaching the whole counsel of God," they go to seed on one or two things.

A few years back, I read in Medical Science book the comments of a doctor as to why two nations of people were the tallest and shortest people in the world. Among other things, he said that the Australian people were, as a nation, the tallest people in the world. He gave his reason as being due to the fact that at almost every meal they ate large portions of meat, beans, and potatoes and, while they might have other things at times these three items were on almost every menu. Likewise, he said the Japanese people were the shortest people on earth as a nation (up until after World War II). He gave his reasons for this as being due to the fact that the Japanese people ate mainly fish heads and rice. (Since World War II and much intercourse with the western world, the average Japanese now is six inches taller than before). He went on to comment that it could be plainly seen that neither of these people had a balanced diet. Beloved, when that is religiously applied, it is readily seen that the reason for so many one-sided, lop-sided Christians and churches that have gone out on a tangent, is because they do not have a balanced diet in their preaching. This has resulted in spiritual selfishness among many of our churches and brethren. Therefore, if a missionary, any missionary, does not agree wholly with their selfish orthodox belief on a certain doctrine, they will not be supported, or perhaps, cut off later when they have had some "new lite." It couldn't be new light, for there is nothing new about God's Word, and the work suffers as a result of such.

Beloved, until man learned to split the atom and build the atom bomb, all men everywhere lived in relatively calm and peace without fear of being completely destroyed. Some differences, yes. An occasional war, yes. But nothing like what it has been since the birth of the A Bomb. Not too long after man learned to split the atom and build this destructive bomb, we began to enter the atomic age regarding the doctrines of the Word of God. Most of you who are 45 years or older, can well remember when most Baptists could be counted in one of three categories, i.e., General, Missionary and the so-called Primitive Baptist. Today one just about has to have a computer to keep up with the different brands of so-called Baptists. You can find everything today from a Seventh Day Baptist to a Progressive Hardshell. Why is this? People are trying to split the atoms in the doctrines of God's Word, which has caused the Lord's Churches to become separated, isolated and, in many instances, a spiritual selfishness unprecedented.

2. **Theirs was a Prejudiced Vision.**

The Jews by nature are a prejudiced people with regard to religious matters. These early disciples of our Lord were no ex-

ception and, especially at this point in time, in their Christian life. That prejudiced vision has persisted ever since in the favored lands of the West, and even among professing Christians, revealing itself in so many kinds of pride of race, or learning, of privilege, wealth, power and much else! Certainly, America could not be guilty of being a prejudiced nation when it comes to race, for America has become the melting pot of the world insofar as the different races are concerned. But, to a large degree, this could be applied to the rest of the list and, most certainly, among professing Christians. In many churches you are not made to feel welcome if you have not reached a certain level or standard of education, or if you have not acquired much of this world's goods and/or influential in business and civic circles. This sort of prejudice has in many cases affected the Lord's work on the foreign mission fields. I once heard a missionary in Papua, New Guinea say that he could hardly stand to look at the New Guinea people and that, in fact, he detested them. He gave as his reasons that they were so far below his level in learning, manners, etc., that they seemed more like animals to him than real people. I must admit that this is an extreme case and could not be applied to the average Christian, but, to a much lesser degree, this could be said of many folk today.

3. **Theirs was a Distorted Vision.**

The Jews in the days of Christ and, to a great degree today, have not changed. They imagine that God's interest and His purposes began and ended in the Jew, to the utter ignoring of the Gentile. Even so, it is no uncommon thing to hear church people protest today to the sending of missionaries to heathen countries. The tone of the bell usually sounds about like this, "The need is too great at home, we need to convert America first."

A woman working in a bank in Chicago once asked me this question. "Do you feel that you are doing right by going to New Guinea and preaching to those folk. They have their own religion, why don't you leave them alone?" To be sure, they have their own religious beliefs. Fact of the matter is, they could be favorably compared to the Athenians that Paul preached to in Acts 17. Before they knew about Christ, most Papua, New Guineans had a number of gods, but does that mean we are to leave them alone in their heathen and idol worship! Far from that, our Lord said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Nothing was mentioned about leaving those alone that had their own religious beliefs worshipping the sun, moon, trees, rivers, birds, etc., etc.

What an utter misconception of the mind and plan of Him who said, "The field is the world, go ye."

The church has to a large extent, lost its original missionary vision and it has not kept its eye on the circumference of the circle, the uttermost part of the earth. And in the measure it has ceased pressing on and out to the whole world, the Lord's blessings have been withheld, and the miracle of His wonder-working power has ceased. It's no wonder so many churches are having a hard time financially today. The Bible is plain, "Where there is no vision the people perish," (Pro.

29:18).

II THE NEED OF COMPASSION.

We read in Mark 6:34, that when Jesus lifted up His eyes and beheld the multitude, "He was moved with compassion toward them." Beloved, our Lord was not touched with a simple mild pity, but He was **MOVED WITH COMPASSION.** That word "compassion" literally means "suffering together with." Our Lord actually suffered in His compassion for men. His heart bled and broke for sorrowing and sinning humanity. Isaiah speaks of Him as "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief," and in all their afflictions He was afflicted.

There is too little preaching done today with compassion for the lost and sinning humanity. One person asked an old preacher not so long ago, why was there no more shouting in the services of the Lord today, and his answer was, "People used to have something to shout about when they went to preaching, now everything is so formal and cut and dried, there is nothing to shout about." I am not trying to argue the point of whether or not it is right or wrong to shout in the preaching service, but the illustration is very applicable to the uncompassionate attitude of most professing Christians today. Seemingly, most people could care less whether the people of Papua, New Guinea, Africa or wherever hear the gospel or not. And if they do give something for missions, they seem to feel that their obligations have ended there, and that is their excuse for not spending much time in compassionate prayer for the lost.

Matthew 9:36 tells us why He had compassion on them:

1. **They fainted.** From crushing burdens of dire poverty. The weight of physical afflictions and abuse from those in power.

2. **They were scattered abroad.** Literally, thrown down. By the forces of evil, injustice, oppression. The heathen are often the victims of unconscionable officials. I know of at least one, or rather two, instances in Papua, New Guinea in the early days when I was there, where two men, on separate occasions, were shot and killed for no other reason than to make them afraid of the white man.

3. **But most of all our Lord saw suffering and sinning humanity, "as sheep having no shepherd."** The echo of the professing religious world today is, "Oh, but they have their own religions, which are good enough for them. This is but the modern equivalent of the words of the disciples of old who said, "Send them away, that they may go into the country round about and buy themselves bread." But observe how the Master thrust back upon them the responsibility they sought to shirk. "THEY NEED NOT TO DEPART: GIVE YE THEM TO EAT" (Matt. 14:16). Beloved, there is a need of burning desire and compassion to see the lost saved and because of the lack of this, mission work is suffering today.

III. THE NEED OF CONSECRATED ACTION.

Jesus could have acted independently, **BUT HE DIDN'T.** He mobilized the

(Continued on Page 6 Column 1)

LAD

(Continued from Page 5)

material at hand and set them in action. To many people the issue of missions is only a side issue. Beloved, this ought not to be. To the first church Jesus made the matter of missions a very important, if not the prime reason for her existence. Any church ought to mobilize all the available forces to see that the gospel is not only preached where the church is located but to reach out to the uttermost part of the earth, and anything short of that will bring the reproach of Christ upon that church.

The little lad stands out as an example of consecration. As we would turn through the pages of Scripture we would find a long list of **LITTLE PEOPLE** and **LITTLE THINGS**, that God has been pleased to use as His chosen instruments. Little becomes much when God is in it. "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty" (I Cor. 1:27).

In our Lord's missionary enterprise some members must be His eyes to see; others His feet to go, some His tongue to speak and others, His hands to serve.

Thou hast no tongue, O Christ, as once of old,

To tell the story of Thy love divine;

The story still the same, as sweet, as true,

But there's no tongue to tell it out but mine.

Thou hast no hands, O Christ, as once of old,

To feed the multitude with bread divine;

Thou hast the Living Bread, enough for all,

But there's no hand to give it out but mine.

Thou hast no feet, O Christ, as once to go,

Where Thy lost sheep in sorrow pine;

Thy love is still the same, as deep, as true,

But now Thou hast no feet to go but mine.

And shall I use these ransomed powers of mine,

For things that only minister to me?

Lord, take my tongue, my hands, my feet, my all,

And let me live, and love, and give for Thee.

Beloved, Christ needs some to GO. There is no higher honor than to be an ambassador for Christ. He needs some to give and if you have any source of income whatever you fit into this category. He needs ALL TO PRAY. Whatever your position or calling in life might be, if you are a child of God you should have a burning desire to do whatever you can for missions. Anything short of the very best you can do, calls for an audit on your spiritual condition. "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (II Cor. 13:5).

ABORTION

(Continued from Page 1)

is that they have failed to consider the issue in the light of God's Holy Word. It would seem that nothing should arouse the Christian more than our society's approval of the legalization of mass homicide.

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PAGE SIX

1. God has clearly spoken regarding the act of murder.

2. If the sixth commandment is binding on all men, and we certainly know it is, then any act of murder (whether it has been legalized by the state or not) is still murder.

Read here Psalm 106:35, 36 and verses 38-40:

Verse 35 — "But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works."

Verse 36 — "And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them."

Verse 38 — "And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood."

Verse 39 — "Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions."

Verse 40 — "Therefore was the wrath of the Lord kindled against His people, insomuch that He abhorred His own inheritance."

The Abortion Problem

The story of the girl I met in Clear Spring, Md.:

A few months ago I was called to bring a Gospel message in Clear Spring, Md. After delivering the message and then presenting the story on abortion; a young woman came up to talk to me. This is her story: "Brother Leonard, I know I am saved, I know I am going to Heaven — but, — she stopped talking and broke into bitter tears. After I had calmed her down, she said, "I know I am saved, but I killed my baby when I was a teenager. I had an abortion. I wake up at night crying into my pillow, my arms are empty. I can never forget what I have done."

These girls come to me every day in my office crying, "Why didn't someone tell me?" Think about what you are doing.

I have a girl who volunteers in my office. She is now happily married and has a small child. One day in our conversation she told me, "Even though I am now married and have a child, I wake up at night crying for my lost baby" — and as tears came to her eyes — "my arms are empty."

Three years ago I met a young woman in Baltimore, Md. She was about to have an abortion. As I counseled with her, by the grace of God I was able to talk her out having the abortion. After the child was born she called me back to Baltimore to see her child. She said, "Why didn't someone tell me. I almost killed my baby. The abortion clinic told me that it wasn't a baby, just an ill-defined body of cells." Thank God He sent you to talk to me."

Oh, my beloved friends, the stories I have told you about Bernice, Bonnie and Joan could be multiplied time and time over.

Why do we get so incensed when we talk about Hitler killing six million Jews. Last year alone, we murdered almost two million unborn babies in the United States.

We talk about October 1929 as Black Friday when the stock market crashed. America has survived the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the 1930 Depression, Dec. 7, 1941, Two World Wars and innumerable small wars and recessions.

We are told that America is in deep trouble now with the current recession, but I tell you that I believe the darkest day in our history was in 1973 when we legalized murder.



QUESTION:—Whose little boy was named Mahershalalhashbaz and why?

ANSWER:—Isaiah's, Isaiah 8:3-4. — "And I (Isaiah) went unto the prophetess; and she conceived and bare a son. Then said the Lord to me, Call his name Mahershalalhashbaz." This name means "a swift spoil and a speedy prey" and was given to the prophet's child to serve as a warning to the people of the approach of the Assyrians, as Isaiah points out in the next verse: "For before the child shall have knowledge to cry, My father, and my mother, the riches of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria shall be taken away before the king of Assyria."

Jeremiah 1:5:

"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."

God has an immediate plan for each life and each life is constituted from the moment of conception,

"A never dying and eternal soul"

It is therefore not merely an ill-defined body of cells we are dealing with in abortion, but an eternal and never-dying soul originating at conception when two individuals become heirs together of the grace of life.

I Peter 3:7:

"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."

God has decreed terrible judgments on entire races in His Word. He has also reserved severest punishment for those who, apart from His decrees, have snuffed out the lives of unborn babies.

Amos 1:13, 14:

"Thus saith the Lord; For three transgressions of the children of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have ripped up the women with child of Gilead, that they might enlarge their border:

But I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah, and it shall devour the palaces thereof, with shouting in the day of battle, with a tempest in the day of the whirlwind."

America is ripe for judgment and unless she repents, she will most certainly perish.

Now suppose you are personally guilty of abortion, either as a parent or physician:

1. Is there hope for you?
2. Can you be forgiven?
3. Here is God's answer:

I John 1:7:

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the Blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

HAGAR

(Continued from Page 1)

mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that barest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she that hath an husband. Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless what saith the Scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the free woman. So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free" (Gal. 4:19-31).

Paul, in the text before us, informs us that Hagar and Sarah are types of the two covenants (agreements). We, therefore, will pursue a study of the two women, their sons, Ishmael and Isaac, the conduct of the two sons and the different fate of the lads.

Our study will reveal that Hagar represents the covenant of works while Sarah represents the covenant of grace. The covenant which relates to Hagar says, "Do or die." Those under this covenant are lost if they fail in one point. A person walking a wire one hundred feet in the air is not allowed one mistake. Those under the covenant of works are not allowed one sin. This covenant, then, is the one which went forth from Mount Sinai amidst smoke, fire, lightning and thunder.

The covenant, on the other hand, which relates to Sarah is one which was made between God and His Son. It was an agreement whereby the Son agreed to die for all those the Father gave Him to suffer and die for. This covenant therefore is termed the covenant of grace. This covenant hinges entirely on what the Lord Jesus Christ has done, or as that old song states: "Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe, Sin had left a crimson stain. He washed it white as snow."

It appears, at first glance, that the covenant of works preceded the covenant of grace. This, however, is only an appearance. The fact is that Sarah was the first wife of Abraham. Hagar, of course, was his second wife. This fact means that the covenant of grace was first, since Sarah represents this agreement. The covenant of grace, in fact, was made and sealed long before the earth was ever made. It is as stated in the following passage:

"According as he hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will to the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved: in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (Eph. 1:4-7).

It becomes obvious from these

passages of Scripture that God ordained His people to salvation ages upon ages before Adam ever set foot upon the earth. It is as stated in the following passage:

"But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (II Thess. 2:13-14).

The second point to note relative to Hagar is that she bare the first son. This was true even though Sarah was Abraham's first wife. The nail I'm trying to drive is that the covenant of works manifested itself first even though the covenant of grace preceded it. It was manifest in that Adam was the first son of Hagar, or the first son of the covenant of works. Hagar, then, bare Adam — Adam who lived for a time under the covenant of works. It was the covenant which said to him, "Do or die." Adam, according to the sacred record, failed to adhere to the agreement (covenant). The result was spiritual death. It is as stated in the following passages.

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come" (Rom. 5:12-14).

The next point of interest which we desire to pursue is that Hagar was never intended to be a wife. She should never have been more than a hand-maid to Sarah. I realize God's purpose in the matter, but the point I wish to emphasize is that the law was never intended to be a means by which humanity was to be saved. The law was intended only as an hand-maid to the covenant of grace. I hasten to add that the law, when used properly, is a marvellous hand-maid to the covenant of grace. It is as stated in the following passages:

"Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one. Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise of faith by Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster" (Gal. 3:19-25).

God the Spirit uses the law as a means in showing us how far we have strayed from God. It shows us how much we are in need of the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Continued on Page 8 Column 1)

A saint needs no halo around his head, but he should have a solo in his heart.

BRIEF STUDIES IN REVELATION

By The Editor

"...These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Rev. 7:14).

I trust you are seriously studying Revelation with me in this series. If so, I suggest you read the Book through many, many times; that you read one or more of the suggested commentaries on Revelation, that you read these studies carefully, and especially, that you review and learn the material given in the first of these series. Please learn the suggested chronology of the Tribulation. Time is moving while the seals, trumpets and vials are taking place. The other chapters give us persons and events of the tribulation period, and should be considered as parenthetical. Consider again my suggestion that the seven seals cover the entire tribulation. The seventh seal consists of the seven trumpets. The seventh trumpet consists of the seven vials. I believe that study will show this to be true. We have seen, in our last study, the events of the first six seals. Chapter seven is a parenthetical portion which tells us about the saved of the tribulation period.

It is a great evidence of the sovereignty of God in saving grace that a vast multitude of men will be saved during the tribulation. God's saving of men does not end with the rapture. Vast multitudes will be saved during the tribulation, and a much greater multitude will be saved during the Millennium. In fact, I believe that it is very probable that the majority of the total number of the saved will come from these two periods of time. There are those who are the elect of God and whose names were written in the Lamb's Book of Life before the foundation of the world. These will not worship the anti-christ because they will be saved people. (Rev. 13:8). During the most terrible time of all world history, during the greatest manifestation of the power of the devil, God will show His sovereignty, grace and power by saving a vast multitude.

Further, God shows His sovereignty over all things in the holding back of the four winds, of the angels, and not allowing hurt to the earth until His elected, predestinated to salvation, chosen ones are sealed. It becomes more and more amazing to me that men can supposedly read the Bible and not see the sovereignty of God over all things. They must read with their eyes closed. Maybe they have special glasses that black out what they do not want to see. Revelation, as well as the whole of the Bible, shows us that God is in sovereign control of all His creatures and all their actions.

Chapter seven is divided into two parts: 1-8 showing the salvation of a multitude of Jews, and 9-17 showing the salvation of Gentiles. Now, to understand this, we must interpret literally. There will be 144,000 Jews: 12,000 from each of the twelve named tribes who will be saved early in the Tribulation. These will also be preserved alive in the flesh through the tribulation, for we see them again in

14:1 as still alive and entering into the Millennium in their natural bodies. I am sure that these 144,000 constitute the "brethren" of Jesus at the judgment of the nations in Matthew 25:31-46. There will be many other Jews saved during the tribulation, but most of them will die under the hands of the anti-christ. God is not through with Israel. He will again take up the Jews, who are His elect earthly people, and deal with them in a special way. The tribulation is not in "The Church Age." That age ends with the rapture. God, then, begins to deal again in a special way with Israel. One must see these dispensational distinctions to properly understand the Book of Revelation. The tribulation is the "time of Jacob's trouble" in a special way (Jer. 30:7). The Millennium is the time of Israel's blessedness in a special way. One will never understand prophecy without seeing dispensational distinctions and without seeing God's special dealings with special peoples in prophetic times.

The rest of chapter 7 tells us of the salvation of an innumerable number of Gentiles during the tribulation. Note in v. 14 that these are ones who come out of great tribulation. So, these are not the saved of all ages, but the saved of the tribulation. Note in v. 9 that these saved Gentiles constitute an innumerable multitude. Not that God does not know their number, but that the number is so vast as to be called "which no man could number." There are those who accuse sovereign grace people of believing that only a few will be saved. Not so, beloved, we believe that the elect of God are a vast multitude from among fallen mankind. Please note that those referred to here as a "great multitude" are only a small portion of the total number of the elect of God.

Those saved during the tribulation are saved by the blood of the Lamb. All who are saved are saved the same way. Oh, how black, vile and filthy we are by nature! There is no cleansing agent manufactured by man in all his religious laboratories which can cleanse from sin. Thank God there is one cleansing agent which can cleanse from sin, and make the cleansed "whiter than snow." It is the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Dear friend, this is a major theme of the Blessed Word of God. This is the only way one can be cleansed and thus stand before the throne of God. Have you been washed in the Blood of Jesus Christ?

Note in vs. 14-17 the theme: **THE PRECIOUS BLESSINGS OF THE BLOOD-WASHED ONES:** 1. Before the throne of God. 2. Serve God eternally. 3. God dwells eternally in their midst. 4. No more hunger. 5. No more thirst. 6. No more burning heat of the sun. 7. Living fountains of waters. 8. All tears wiped away forever. What wonderful blessings have been purchased for the children of men by the blood of Jesus Christ!

In chapters 8 & 9, we have the judgments connected with six of the seven trumpets. Remember that these take place as part of

the seventh seal. The seventh trumpet will consist of the seven vials of wrath. Now, time begins to move again. Chapter 7 is a parenthetical portion telling of the saved of the tribulation. The things of chapter 7 cover the entire time of the tribulation. But the clock begins to tick again with chapter 8 and we move forward in time towards the close of the tribulation. I insist that the literal interpretation of these trumpet judgments is the only way to understand them. I suggest that you compare the judgments of the Great Tribulation with the judgments of God on Egypt in the days of Moses. I call that the "Little Tribulation." Did those things really happen, literally, as described in Exodus? Of course they did. We would suspect the soundness of one who would suggest a figurative interpretation of God's judgments upon Egypt. Well, why can't we take the judgments of God in the Great Tribulation as literal? We can. We do. We must, if we are going to understand them at all. I know these things seem incredible. But God's Word describes and details them, and God's Word makes the incredible totally credible. Remember, that man's sin is terrible and calls for terrible punishment. Place the awfulness of man's sin over against the awfulness of these events, and they will not seem so incredible. If these things are not to be understood literally, then no man knows or can know what they mean, and we might as well "skip" this part of the Bible in our study.

Preceding these judgments, there is a marvelous and mystifying half-hour of silence in heaven: the only one of which we ever read. Seven special angels are given seven trumpets. Note, as you study Revelation, the special activities of the angels. Some think that "another angel" in v. 3 is the Lord Jesus Christ, but I think not. Note the reference in v. 3-4 to "the prayers of the saints." They have longed and prayed "thy kingdom come." Now that kingdom is about to come, and we see the part that the saint's prayers play in bringing this about.

Under the first trumpet judgment, hail and fire are cast into the earth. One third of the trees and all green grass is burned up. This is a literal judgment, and it affects the whole earth. When we realize how much we depend upon the trees and the green grass, we see what a sore judgment this is. Under the second trumpet, a third of the seas become real blood, a third of sea life dies, and a third of all the ships at sea are destroyed. I believe, that unless otherwise clearly stated, these judgments will cover the whole globe. Under the third trumpet, a third of all the rivers and fountains of earth become bitter, and multitudes die from drinking of these. Under the fourth trumpet, the sun, moon, and stars are affected, and they do not shine for a third part of the day, nor a third part of the night. This does not refer to their shining over a third part of the globe, but to a third part of the time of day and the time of night. Men are going to know by experience of the awfulness of their sins, of the holiness of God in His wrath against sin, and of the power of God manifested in judgment against sin. Following this fourth trumpet, we have an angelic announcement of the more terrible character of three remaining trumpets. They are

known as the "woe" trumpets. Things are rapidly getting worse.

In chapter 9, we have the terrible judgments of the fifth and sixth trumpet, and we can understand why they are called "woe" judgments. Now, beloved, the way to understand this chapter is to just read it and believe it. In that way it is very plain, clear, and easily understood. But if we try to find some other mysterious meaning for it, different from what it says, we are at a loss as to any true interpretation. Chapter 9:1-12 tells us of the judgment of the fifth trumpet. It is the judgment of the hellish, demon locusts. The fallen star is Satan himself, for the personal pronouns used refer to a person. Note references to "this bottomless pit" in 9:1, 2, 11; 17:8; 20:1, 3. We learn that this is the place from which anti-christ comes and where Satan is bound during the Millennium. Note the awful smoke which comes from this place darkening the sun and the air. This pit is a part of Hades which is located in the heart of the earth.

These locusts are shaped like horses prepared to battle, have crowns of gold on their heads, faces like men, hair like women, teeth like lions, and tails like scorpions with stings. Their wings sound like chariots and they have a king over them who is the angel of the bottomless pit, who is called Abaddon in Hebrew and Apollyon in Greek. Both names mean "destroyer." The power of these locusts is given them by a sovereign God, and is limited to the doing of the purpose of God. They are not allowed to touch any of the "sealed ones." They cannot hurt any green thing. This shows them to be supernatural and not ordinary locusts, for green things is the food of the locust. They are allowed to hurt men only, and cannot kill them. Their torment is like the awful pain of the sting of a scorpion. This demon locust plague lasts for five months.

During this judgment, and because of the awful pain, men seek for death and can not find it. There is a time appointed by God for each of mankind to die, and no one can or will die before that predestinated time, no matter how they desire death or seek to die. Men will attempt to commit suicide, but will be thwarted by God in their attempts. What a terrible judgment is this! Now, just read this and believe that the locusts are exactly as described here, and do what is told here, and this is easily understood.

Chapter 9: 13-21 tells us of the judgment of the sixth trumpet. The earth will be overrun by two hundred million hellish, demon horsemen riding hellish, demon horses. I believe that these horses are demons in the form of horses and the horsemen are demons in the form of horsemen. I see no other way of understanding this Scripture. Note again the sovereignty of God in that this judgment cannot begin until the hour, day, month, and year predestinated by God. Note that this judgment will accomplish the result predestinated by God: that is, kill a third of the remaining inhabitants of the earth. There are exactly 2,000,000 of these horses, and the same number of horsemen. The horsemen have breastplates of fire, jacinth, and brimstone. The horses have heads like lions. Fire, smoke and brimstone come out of their mouths. They have tails like

Missionary To New Guinea Eld.



FRED T. HALLIMAN

Send your offerings for the support of Brother Fred T. Halliman to:
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P.O. Box 71
Ashland, Kentucky, 41101

Be sure to state that the offering is for the mission work of New Guinea. Do not say that it is for missions as this will only be confusing since we have other mission works.

Write Brother Halliman frequently. His address is:
ELDER FRED T. HALLIMAN,
Sovereign Grace Baptist Mission,
P.O. Box 19, Koroba, via Mendi,
Papua, New Guinea.

serpents and these have heads. They have power to hurt in their mouths and in their tails. What horrible monsters are these! How terrifying will they appear to the inhabitants of the earth. Friend, some day — and it may not be long — just such a sight will be seen upon this earth exactly as here described. What terror will fill the hearts of men as they are attacked and multitudes killed by these demon monstrosities! All the horror movies of all time will be as nothing compared to the reality of this horror. Please note that one-fourth of the world's population was killed under the first four seals. Now one-third of the remainder are killed under the sixth trumpet. This means that by now over half of the world's population has been killed. I say, over half, for many die under some of the other judgments.

Now please note 9:20-21. Here we see the impenitence of those left alive on the earth. What an evidence of the

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BAPTIST EXAMINER FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Beginning Balance	
Oct. 1, 1982	\$ 784.17
Receipts	3,829.68
	\$4,613.85
Expenditures:	
*Labor	\$1,112.60
Printing	914.75
Postage	564.05
Supplies	167.20
Taxes	
(FICA-Labor)	242.44
Misc.	28.97
Total Expenditures	\$3,030.01
Balance	
October 31, 1982	\$1,583.84
*Labor expenditures for five weeks	

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PAGE SEVEN

If good people would but make their goodness agreeable it would win many to a good cause.

**TUNE IN TO
THE CALL TO CALVARY**

Station: WEMM, Huntgn., W. Va. Time: Sun.—7:30-8:00 a.m. Dial: 107.9 Watts: 50000 FM

BRIEF STUDIES

(Continued from Page 7)

depravity of man is seen here! God's judgments are in the earth. Multitudes die. Men suffer as never before. They know that God is punishing them for sin. Yet, they do not and will not repent. Arminians often preach that, if they could go to hell and preach the gospel to sinners in hell, that men would repent and be saved. This is not true. No amount of suffering can cause the sinner to truly repent of sin. He may repent of the punishment for his sin: that is, he may wish he was not being punished. But the sinner will still love his sin, even in the burning flames of hell. Beloved, we must know and preach that true repentance is not within the power of the natural man. True and saving repentance is a gift of God's grace and is wrought within one by the effectual working of the Holy Spirit. This is given to the elect of God. None others will ever savingly repent of sin and believe in Jesus Christ for eternal salvation. You can not talk a man into repentance, scare him into it, beat or torture him into it, or force him into repentance in any way. It is the gift of God. These verses stand on the pages of the Bible as eternal proof of the awful depravity of man in his rebellion against God.

Brothers and sisters, as I close this study for now, and think of the awful judgments that are coming on the earth — and that may soon be here, I praise the Lord more and more for the pre-tribulational rapture of the saints of God. Praise the Lord, those who are now saved, or who will be saved before that time begins, will not be left to go into that awful time. Before the first seal is opened and before the first trumpet is blown, we will hear a voice from heaven calling us up to our hiding place in the Father's house. Dear friend, do not be deceived by the post tribulational position. You and I will be yonder in glory when these things begin to take place. Repent of sin and trust Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour now, and you will not go into any part of this terrible time we have been studying. May the Lord bless you all!

HAGAR

(Continued from Page 6)

The law shows us how great our Lord Jesus Christ is in that He kept the law to the letter. I, when I look into the mirror of God's law, see myself a complete failure. My failure, however, turns to complete victory when I look by faith to my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I fall at His feet and claim His righteousness because mine are nothing more than filthy rages. The law, therefore, becomes a handmaid in the hands of the Spirit in bringing us to the Lord Jesus Christ.

It becomes obvious that we must not be married to Hagar, but only to Sarah, that is, we must not try, or even consider, being saved by works. It is as stated in the following passages:

"What shall we say then, that Abraham our father, as

pertaining to the flesh, hath found? for if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justified the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness, even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin" (Rom. 4:1-8).

You will recall that Sarah treated Hagar kindly when she was her hand-maid, but her treatment became harsh after her proper place of a hand-maid was abandoned to that of a wife. We, in like manner, will not frown upon the proper use of the law, but we will treat it harshly when we find it being used as a means of regeneration.

It will be interesting and instructive for us to observe that Hagar was never a free woman and that Sarah was never a slave. The nail I'm trying to drive is that the covenant of works was never free and that none of her children are ever free. Those, in fact, who are trying to keep the law as a means toward regeneration, will find it to be a very rigorous master. It will never say thanks, but will always demand that the best you can do is only your duty. It is your duty to wash your face and to keep yourself clean. No one commends you for this and the same applies to the law. You, in fact, can never do enough to satisfy it. You will always fall short of its requirements. Those, therefore, who are under the law, are slaves' even as Hagar was a slave. Those, on the other hand, who are under the covenant of grace, are free even as Sarah was free. Sarah, in fact, was never a slave.

Let those who would be saved by the law remember that their mother, Hagar, and their brother, Ishmael, were cast out. Sarah on the other hand, was never cast out. Those, in other words, who trust in the law will be sent away from the Father even as Hagar and her son were sent away. Where, then, is the mother of the legalists? She, of course, has been driven out. Where, on the other hand, is the mother of those who are under the covenant of grace? They are with the Father even as Sarah remained with Abraham.

This brings us to Isaac and Ishmael, the sons who lived under the two separate covenants. Isaac, of course, is a type of him who is in the stream of grace and lives by faith, while Ishmael is a type of those who are under the law and hope to be saved on the basis of their good deeds.

Paul, in Galatians 4:29, informs us that Ishmael was born after the flesh while Isaac was born after the Spirit. Here, then, is the dividing line between the two. It is the same dif-

ference which manifests itself in Luke 18:9-14.

Let us not ponder the conduct of Ishmael in contrast to that of Isaac. Ishmael's conduct manifested itself in that he mocked Isaac. We may add that the Ishmaels of our day are still mocking the Isaacs. Try, if you will, to inform Hagar's children that salvation is by grace. I assure you that you will have an immediate conflict. Try, if you will, to inform Hagar's children of the great doctrines of grace and you will find yourself in the middle of a great conflict.

May we, in closing, discover what became of the two sons. Our discovery will be that Isaac received all of the inheritance while Ishmael went away empty-handed. Ishmael, of course, did receive much of this world's goods. He, in fact, became very rich relative to this world, but he went away with no spiritual inheritance. The same applies today relative to the children of Sarah and Hagar.

Are you a child of Hagar or a child of Sarah? You are a child of Sarah if your hope is built on nothing less than Jesus's blood and righteousness. You, on the other hand, are a child of Hagar if your hope of heaven is based upon your own efforts, or even partly on the blood of Christ and partly on your own efforts. You are sure to be cast out if you are not looking entirely to the finished work of our Lord Jesus Christ.



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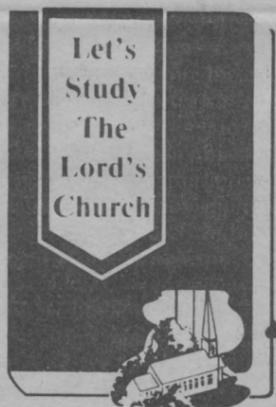
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