

Life without its shadows is life without its grace.

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THE ORIGIN AND NAME OF CHRIST'S CHURCH

by Elder Luther S. Hilton
Hobart, Indiana

TEXT: Matthew 16:18

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Introduction:

The precious church of our Lord had a beginning! Just when it began, seems to be and is a matter of much dispute. This is chiefly due to the fact



Luther Hilton

that so many hold to a false concept as to what the church is.

If one has a false concept as to what the church is, one will most likely have a false concept as to when the church had its origin or beginning. When you understand that the church is "an assembly", then you will have less difficulty in spotting her beginning. I'll admit that the Bible nowhere says, "The church started on this spot on this certain day."

But, dear reader, when we know what the church is, we are able to closely examine the inspired, infallible, scriptural record and see when the church began.

I will not spend time with the negative side of the matter, but will go immediately to the positive side.

I. WHEN DID THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST BEGIN?

First, let's define the word "church." It is the Greek word "Ekklesia." The word means ASSEMBLY — a called-out group, namely, an assembly. I'm sure that it would be much clearer to readers of the Bible if the word had been translated assembly, instead of replacing it with the word "church." Now, since we have noticed that the word church is actually the word assembly, let's admit that an assembly called out for a specific "spiritual" purpose is a church. Now, dear friend, I believe the church ought to be helpful to the poor and to people when difficult times come upon them, but I want to be clear and say that I do not by any means believe that the church is to be a welfare department to help feed people and hand over the Lord's money to people who are too lazy and sorry to work like everyone else. I have had people tell me that they didn't need to work, because they didn't need the money. A man who was attending King's Addition Missionary Baptist Church in South Shore, Kentucky told Brother Jim Hobbs that he didn't need to work, because he

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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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THINGS THAT JESUS NEVER DID

by John R. Gilpin, Sr.
(Now in Glory)

"There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true. Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth. But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved. He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light. But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape. And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:32-39).

At the very outset, let me say that I wish that this message might be a means of making you realize anew and afresh that Jesus Christ was God in the flesh, for the things that Jesus never did do, amply and abundantly show us that He was God, for only God could live the life that Jesus lived. Beloved, I



John Gilpin, Sr.

never did have any trouble believing that Jesus Christ was God. Lots of preachers seem to have trouble in believing this fact. I am sure that there are a lot of preachers in America, even some so-called Baptist preachers, who do not believe in the deity and divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ. As I say, I never did have any trouble in

believing that Jesus was God's Son — that He was God in the flesh, and that He was God and man at the same time. I believe this, first of all, because of the testimony of the Scriptures. We read:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the WORD WAS GOD." (John 1:1).

In this Scripture, the Lord Jesus is spoken of figuratively as the Word, and it says, "The Word was God." Listen again: "For I CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me" (John 6:37). Surely, beloved, you can't read this Scripture where He makes the assertion that He came down from Heaven, without the realization that Jesus Christ was God in the flesh. Notice another Scripture: "I and my Father are one" (John 10:30). In this, He declares the unity of the Father and the Son. He says that He and the Father are one, and therefore being inseparable. He says that Jesus Christ was God. Notice again: "And he

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TO THE UNBELIEVING JEW AND GENTILE

by Murray Tyler
Tulsa, Ok.

"YE WILL NOT COME TO ME, THAT YE MIGHT HAVE LIFE" (John 5:40). Jesus said, "I receive not honor from men, But I know you that ye have not the love of God in you." Why won't men come to Jesus? To you, who are saved, it is a mystery



Murray Tyler

why men don't flock to Jesus, run to Him, adore Him, but they don't. Jesus tells us why. It is because they have not the love of God in them. The Gospel is the Power of God unto Salvation to every one that believeth, the gospel is preached, the invitation is given, but many will not come. "But you will not come unto me," Jesus said, "that ye might have life." We ask why. Well, brethren, you and I know; but it is something I can not ex-

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THOU SERVANT OF THE LORD

by Bruce Allen
Thessalonian Bapt. Church
Louisville, Kentucky

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (II Timothy 4:2).

Today, there is much coming from the pulpits of this nation and of the world. We hear of politics, civil rights and social reform being proclaimed to set people free. Other false pulpits are building upon a foundation that is not Christ, they are proclaiming "another gospel"; such as, be baptized, pray through or live righteously that they may obtain the pleasures of heaven. These false pulpits deny and are ashamed of the gospel of Christ. They DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE gospel of Christ "is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth" (Romans 1:16). Therefore, we should expect no less to come from these of the great harlot Rome, her daughters or her grandchildren.

But, we should and do expect that the pulpits of the Lord's churches will "preach the Word." Did not Christ of whom is all authority, power and liberty (GK. — Exousia) say unto His church (churches through perpetuity), Go ye and teach (disciple) all nations — go ye and baptize (immerse, picturing the redemptive work of Christ, (Romans 6:3-5) — go ye

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The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Joseph M. Wilson

HOW TO HANDLE TEMPTATION

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil" (Matt. 6:13). All of us face temptation. My subject, therefore, is a very important one; and should be of interest to us all. Sin is the major problem in the world, and certainly in the life of the child of God. This is pointed out for us in the children's prayer, commonly, but wrongly, called the Lord's prayer. There are seven petitions in this model prayer. Three of those seven relate to the problem of sin in the life of the believer. We are taught to pray that, so far as God sees fit, we will not even be tempted to sin. We are to pray that, when we are tempted, we will be delivered from falling before the temptation. We are to pray that, when we do fall into sin, the Lord will forgive us our sins. From this emphasis on sin in the model prayer, we learn that the child of God should give much thought to the matter of personal sin, he should pray against it, and war against it with God given power. He should im-

mediately upon becoming conscious of sin in his life, ask for forgiveness, and thus maintain sweet fellowship with the Lord.

The word "temptation" is used in the Bible in a two-fold way. It is used to refer to a test or trial. This is of the Lord and is designed for our good, that we might know our weakness, our need, and seek God's strength. The word is used of a solicitation to do evil. This is our usual understanding of the word "temptation," and is how it will be used in this sermon.

Temptation is a reality, one with which we will have to deal until we go to be with our Lord. It is a constant fact. There will never be any release from this warfare against sin until we are delivered by death or the rapture. Temptations come from many and varied sources. The world is a major source of temptation. Just living in this awful, wicked, God-hating world is a constant source of temptations of every sort. We are tempted to walk in the ways of the world. The world rubs off on us. No

man can live here day by day without being somewhat contaminated thereby.

The flesh is a constant source of temptation. We still have the old nature even after we are saved. It is unchanged by the miracle of regeneration. The flesh in the saved person is just the same — sinful, vile, wicked, depraved — as it is in the unsaved. There is that within us which is our greatest enemy in our desire to live holy lives for God's glory. Oh, the enemy within! The enemy within! What a constant battle we have with the flesh! I simply cannot understand how anyone — living with himself twenty-four hours a day — can even pretend that the old nature is eradicated. Our experience in battling with the flesh teaches us the contrary of this "eradication" heresy. Those who know nothing of the opposition of the flesh to godliness — who know nothing of this constant battle — surely know nothing of the experience of the saving grace of our God.

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THE BAPTIST PEOPLE

JOSEPH M. WILSON, Editor

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HOW

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The Devil is the great enemy of God and of the souls of men. He is the source of many temptations to the child of God. He has a multitude of demons under his control who aid him in this nefarious business. And Brother, this Devil, as well as the weakest of his demons, is more wise and powerful than any mere man. He is always awake, alert, active in seeking to cause the believer to fall into sin and thus harm his spiritual condition and his testimony before the world. He knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows our weaknesses. He knows our weak moments. Oh, were it not for the power of the Spirit within us, we would be utterly defeated continuously by this monster of iniquity.

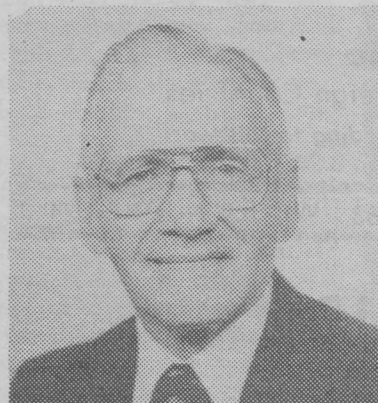
There are other sources of temptation. Often, our dearest and closest loved ones become our tempters. How sad this is, and what a battle it is to be able to put our Lord and His claims ahead of those who are so close to our hearts. Yes, there are many sources of temptation, and we are continuously subject thereto.

Now, the purpose of temptation is two-fold. So far as the Lord, in His sovereignty allowing us to be sorely tempted, the purpose is to teach us distrust of self, our weakness, and our need of constantly looking to Him. We are thus strengthened in our Christian life by those very things which Satan seeks to use against us. Oh, the glorious sovereignty of our God! The purpose of Satan in temptation is to solicit us to sin, thus hurting our spiritual welfare, drawing us away from our Lord, and destroying our influence before the world. Now, how are we to handle temptation. This is very important, for if we do not handle it, temptation will surely handle us.

We must, first of all, realize our weakness in this matter. We must know that we are very susceptible to temptation. That

It costs a heap more to revenge injuries than to bear them.

we are, oh! so weak. That we are, every moment, liable to fall into sin to our great hurt. We are, every moment, liable to grievously dishonor our Lord by such falls into sin. Now, there is a vast difference between the temptation of our Lord and ours in this respect. Hebrews 4:15 tells us of our Lord that He, "...was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Many understand this "without sin" to mean that He did not sin. This is certainly true, but not the truth of this Scripture. This Scripture is tell-



ing us that the inward possibility to sin was not in our Lord as it is in us. He does not have that sinful nature which has the tendency and capacity to respond to the temptation. He never knew the battle which we know of "should I do this or should I not, I want to do it, and I don't want to." He was totally without the possibility of sin. He was impeccable. But, beloved, this is not true of you and me. We are liable to fall at any and every moment of time. We need to realize this. The first thing in handling temptation is to thus realize our own utter weakness and total helplessness. This will move us to earnestly and continuously seek the power of God. We will pray, "...lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." The first step on the road to victory over sin is to realize one's helplessness against it.

Next, we are to pray against sin and against temptation. Realizing our weakness will drive us to the "...throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:16). We pray that, so far as God might see fit, we will not even be tempted. We do not want to see how close we can get to the fire without being burned. We are scared of the fire. We pray to be delivered from the burning heat of temptation. However, we know that temptation is a part of God's plan for our lives. We bow to God's sovereign will in this. Therefore, we pray that God will be pleased to, in the hour of temptation, manifest His great power in our behalf and deliver us from falling into sin through temptation. Dear child of God, I urge you to begin every day with this kind of praying. Who knows what great victories we might have during each day so begun. How dare we go out on the daily battlefield of life without praying that our God will go with us, lead us, and protect us? Brothers, we fall so often into sin because we pray so little against it. Would we go forth armed with the weapon of "all-prayer" we might and would know less defeat and more victory. See the Christian soldier going forth in the morning to the battle without a secret time with the Lord at the beginning of the day. See him coming home at night having been defeated by the enemy. See with what bitter tears he must repent of his sins of the day. See the Christian soldier, first closeting

himself with the Lord, pleading for deliverance from and/or victory over the enemy during the day; and then going forth to the battle. See him at the close of the day, returning from the battlefield with shouts of victory, giving praise to the Lord for the successes of the day. We must learn to handle temptation by praying against it.

"Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away" (Prov. 4:14-15). "Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house" (Prov. 5:8). "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (I Thess. 5:22). These three Scriptures fit together, and tell us that we are to handle temptation by avoiding it as best we can. God, in His sovereign providence, may and will direct our lives into times and places of temptation. This will be all the temptation we can handle. Let us, as best we can, avoid all places and times of temptation. We know our weaknesses. We know the things, times and places that tempt us. Let us stay away therefrom. The middle Scripture is very applicable to what I am trying to say. The man who never goes near the door of the harlot, will not succumb to her seductions. Brother, know your weakness. Know the places and occasions where you have fallen in the past. Avoid them as you would a diamond-back rattle snake, or a saber-toothed tiger, or the very plague itself.

"And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and got him out" (Gen. 39:12). This is close akin to the former instruction. Joseph knew how to handle temptation. He fled from it. Brother, do you not know your sinful nature, your weakness, your liability to fall? Then, do not dilly-dally with temptation. Do not hang around it. Run from it as hard as you can. Paul warns young Timothy, and us all to, "Flee also youthful lusts..." (II Tim. 2:22). Surely, we will not fall into that temptation from which we are fleeing.

Then, we should fight with temptation. I call for a declaration of war on sin. Let us determine that we will never give in without a fight. That we will not yield to temptation. Let us say to temptation, "you may whip me, but you will know you have been in a battle." Really, is not this a path to victory? Have we ever been defeated by a temptation while battling against it? Is it not when we give up that we go down?

Next, let us believe our God. "...this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (I John 5:4). Look at this great promise in I Corinthians 10:13, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." Other men have been tempted even as we are. God had given them the victory. God will never allow us to be tempted, but that He will make a way of victory for us. Let us believe God, and in that faith pray to Him, and thus handle temptation.

Let us build our defences against temptation. Many of the kings of Judah, in times of peace, would occupy themselves in building up their defences against the battle that was sure to come later on. Let us study

ourselves. Let us learn our weaknesses. Let us build up strong defences at those weak points. When the weak points are fortified, what a strong city our life will be!

Now, hear this. Stay busy for Jesus, oh, do stay busy for Jesus!. The old folks - and they were the wisest - used to say that an idle mind is the devil's work shop. We might say that an idle life is such also. It was when David stayed home from the battlefield and "walked upon the roof of the king's house", idle while the battle raged, that he fell into the great sin of his life. Think about Jesus more. Pray to Jesus more. Talk to others about Jesus more. Be busily at work for Jesus Christ. Thus you will have more and more victory over sin. I appeal to your experience. Is it not true that your worst defeats have come when you were not engaged actively in working for the Lord?

Now, this is very important. Build up, improve, your whole spiritual life. Be a better all-round Christian. One of the best defenses against a particular illness is total bodily health. The body falls victim before one

disease because its total health is poor. So it is in the spiritual realm. Be the best Christian God will enable you to be. Pray, read the Bible, be faithful in church, work hard for the Lord. Be a total Christian, and you will be better able to handle any single temptation. Many fall into some terrible sin at some point of their life, because their spiritual health is in a poor general condition.

Next, have a compassionate regard and active concern for those who have fallen into sin. Note Galatians 6:1, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." One's attitude towards the fallen brother is a true test of spirituality. We are to have compassion on such and seek to restore them to good fellowship with the Lord. We are to consider that we are weak, and we might fall, and we might need someone to have compassion on us and to help us. If we fail to do this, we will be tempted and we might fall.

"Thy word have I hid in
(Continued on Page 3 Column 1)

FROM THE EDITOR

AN APPEAL TO OUR KIND

"Render therefore to all their dues... honour to whom honour" (Rom. 13:7). This is a personal statement and an appeal to our kind of Baptists. I say "our kind," for I would not expect others to respond to such an appeal. The statement is relative to Brother Fred Halliman and the New Guinea Mission work which is under the authority of Calvary Baptist Church. I know of no man nor of any work more deserving of the support of our kind of Baptists than this man and this work.

Brother Halliman has given many years of his life to the New Guinea Mission work. During those years, no man has served God more faithfully nor more sacrificially than this man. I think I can say that, during those years, no man nor work has been more blessed of God than this work. God has set His seal of approval on this man in that He has blessed and used him so greatly. I suggest that to argue against this man and to oppose or seek to hinder or destroy his work is to argue against the manifest approval of God upon him. Thousands of souls have been saved and scores of true Baptist churches have been organized. Brothers, I ask you seriously, what other preacher among our kind can lay claim to one thousandth part of the fruit in our labors that has been seen in the labors of Fred Halliman during this time?

Multitudes of our kind of Baptists have praised God for the work of Fred Halliman. Many of us, as I most fervently do, have praised God for the privilege of having a small part in this work. I have done so little for the Lord. Many, many times, upon seeing how little has been accomplished by my ministry, I have praised my God that I have had a part in the ministry of Fred Halliman, in which so very much was being accomplished. Honor is due this man. I gladly give him that honor. I consider Fred Halliman to be the greatest missionary since the Apostle Paul, at least to my knowledge. I do not just give him this honor, praise him and his work, now that I am pastor of the church which authorizes this work. All who know me will testify that I have supported, and urged others to support, this work for years. I have never pastored a church, since Brother Halliman went to the mission field, that did not support this work. Praise God, I have been enabled of God to lead many others to start support of this great work.

Now, it is the shame and disgrace of recent years, that this man has been slandered, opposed, criticized, lied about, and efforts made to destroy him and his work. A second shame and disgrace is that a multitude who once supported Fred Halliman and New Guinea Missions, who praised God for this work, who counted it a rich blessing from God to be involved in this work, have been influenced to drop their support, and even to turn against this great man of God and this great work. Many have listened to the slander and lies of others, and have turned against Fred Halliman, without ever attempting to learn the truth. Those who have investigated both sides of the matter have renewed or continued their support of this man and this work.

The New Guinea Mission work has reached the point of greatest possibilities. Yet, the great drop in financial support has forced Brother Halliman to curtail his activities on the mission field instead of greatly expanding them, as he could be doing if he had the financial support. A very critical time has arrived in the New Guinea Mission work. Increased support is very vital at this time. I make an urgent appeal to our kind of Baptists to do all they can in the support of this work. I am asking Calvary Baptist Church to increase its regular monthly offering to this work by nearly 100%. I feel she will do this. I appeal to those of you who once supported this work to renew your support. I appeal to many who have never supported this work to begin now to do so. I appeal to you who do support the work to increase your support if possible. Brother pastors, we are doing so little in our works here. Praise God for that little, and let us be faithful therein. Here is an opportunity to become involved in a work that has been greatly blessed of God, and that now has the seeming greatest potential ever. I appeal to our kind of Baptists to help in this great mission work to the good of souls and the glory of God. God bless you!



QUESTION: — How much did Solomon pay for his horses?
ANSWER: — 150 shekels of silver each, Second Chronicles 1:16, 17. "And Solomon had horses brought out of Egypt... And they fetched up, and brought forth out of Egypt a chariot of six hundred and fifty..."

The silver shekel was worth about sixty-five cents, as nearly as we can now determine, so Solomon paid a little under a hundred dollars each for his horses.

HOW

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mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psa. 119:11). Here is an important matter in handling temptation. If we do not study the Word of God, if we do not meditate thereupon, if we do not love it, if we do not store our armory with it, if we do not grow strong by feeding upon it; surely we will fall. Note the connection between the Word of God and being strong in I John 2:14, "...ye are strong, and the Word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one." In the physical realm, one cannot be big and healthy and strong without a proper diet. So is it in the spiritual realm. Many of you are weak, and constantly going down before temptation, because you eat so little of the Word of God. Is this not true?

Now note the connection between loving Him and enduring temptation in James 1:12, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." Develop more and more your God-given love for Jesus Christ. Let me use a worldly term and say, "make love to Jesus." When our hearts burn within us for love to Him, we are more and more enabled to handle temptation. When a man loves his wife truly and deeply, such love arms him against the wiles of the other woman. When his love for his wife is cold, he is more liable to fall before the seducements of another. So is it in the matter of temptation. Nothing will so arm us against temptation and sin as will a deep, burning love for Jesus Christ. Sincere, deep warm heart love for Jesus will solve the problem of sin for the believing child of God. Without a passionate love for Him, burning within our souls, we will surely fall into grievous and hurtful sin.

Read these three Scriptures as they point to a great source of strength against temptation. "...walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh" (Gal. 5:16). "...be filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18). "...greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4). The Holy Spirit is our strength in the matter of temptation. He is in us. We are to yield to Him so as to be filled with the Spirit. We are to walk in His leading and His power. Thus we will have victory over tempta-

tion. We cannot "handle" temptation, but, praise God, He can "handle" it for us!

Brother, and sisters, we can be better Christians. God has provided the means thereof for us. If we are not better Christians, it is because of our failure to use what God has given us, and not because of His failure to properly equip and supply His soldiers. We should be better Christians. We should have more and more victory. We should commit less and less sin. Our light should shine, "more and more unto the perfect day." We should grow "stronger and stronger." If not, we have reason to question the reality of our profession. We should be better Christians for our own good, that we will experience more joy and blessings in our own life. We should be better Christians for the good of others, that we might have an influence for spiritual good in the lives of others. We should be better Christians for the sake of our church. How much better would our churches be if every member would diligently endeavor to be a better Christian! Finally, and most important of all, we should be better Christians for the glory of our wonderful Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Oh, how much has He done for us? He has saved us from a deserved hell to a glorious and undeserved eternal heaven. He has blessed us abundantly and continuously. Should we not love Him supremely? Should we not seek to glorify Him by being the best Christians His power and grace will enable us to be? Surely every redeemed soul will answer, amen and amen! May God bless you all!

ORIGIN

(Continued from Page 1)

didn't have any use for the money. Bro. Hobbs told him to give it to the church if he didn't need it or know what to do with it.

I recall when I was with Grace Baptist Church in Winston Salem, N.C. that a family told me that they went to a certain church, because they were given food and things like that. They found that Grace Baptist Church wasn't like the big church that "bribed" people to come to the services. I knew this family quite well. The husband was a drunkard and wouldn't work in a pie factory "eating pies" and, dear people, I don't believe a true church of the Lord Jesus Christ ought to take of the Lord's money and give to these people that they might get them to the services. I've had people to ask me many times, "Can the church you're with offer more than such and such a church?" I've always told these inquirers that we could offer more than any church of this world. We set before you the truth and that's far more than any church of this world can offer.

As many of you know, I pastor very near Hammond, Indiana where the big church of Jack Hyles' is located. You just wouldn't believe the schemes they come up with to get people in. Well, beloved, I INSIST THAT WE HAVE NO BUSINESS TO USE ANYTHING OTHER THAN SCRIPTURAL MEANS TO GET PEOPLE TO COME TO THE HOUSE OF GOD. All we have a God-given right to offer is spiritual food, and that's it! I've said all the aforementioned to illustrate that the specific and sole purpose of the church of

Jesus Christ is to be "tending to spiritual things." Yes, sir; giving out gifts and prizes and running contests will most certainly draw crowds into the meeting place, but THESE UNGODLY GIMMICKS WILL NOT BUILD A SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY AND I BELIEVE THEY ARE AN ABOMINATION IN THE SIGHT OF GOD.

Now, I ask the question, "When did the church of Jesus begin or when did Jesus begin His 'ekklesia,' His assembly?" When did He begin to call it out and assemble it? The answer must be, "When He called out the very first persons whom He set as the first members of the church. Just when was that? Let's read John 1:35-51. (For space, I will leave you to read this portion of Scripture.)

Here was the beginning of Christ's calling out His assembly. Those called out had been baptized by John the Baptist and were "thus prepared" for composing the Lord's church.

If you'll look at Mark 3:13-19 you'll behold what I'd call an ordination service. Here Jesus ordained the 12 that they should be with Him and that He might send them forth (missionary preachers.) Luke 6:13 throws some important light on this matter: "And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples; and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles." If we compare I Corinthians 12:28, "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles," Ephesians 2:20, "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;" Ephesians 4:11, "And he gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:"

In view of this great evidence from God, we must hold, are bound to hold that Jesus set the 12 disciples, whom He called apostles in the church first. I see no scriptural way around it. It's just as plain on the pages of the Word of God as that of the church being a LOCAL VISIBLE ASSEMBLY.

Beloved, it is clear, very, very clear! Yet, some tell us that the Bible doesn't indicate when the church began. Their problem, as I mentioned earlier, is that they have a wrong or false concept with regard to what a church (assembly is. IF ONE KNOWS THE TRUTH REGARDING WHAT A TRUE CHURCH IS: then it is easy to see when CHRIST BEGAN ASSEMBLING HIS ASSEMBLY.

So, on this portion of the message, I conclude by making this statement: From the evidence of Scripture, from the Word of God itself, Jesus established and organized His church during His early ministry here on the earth. I lean hard and strong toward this being done during the very early stages of His ministry.

II. Now let us begin to deal with THE NAME OF JESUS' CHURCH.

How is the church or, I should say, assembly of Jesus to be known? The church is not to be known by its name alone as some think. (I surely don't believe every assembly that bears the name Baptist are true churches.) THE NAME OF THE CHURCH IS HER

"IDENTITY" BEFORE ALL THE WORLD. She is to be known to be true to that name BY HER DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES. A true church ought to bare the name of a true church and she must also bare the doctrines and practices. I've heard people boast in their foolish ignorance that they took down the name, because it kept people away. Those who have done that, probably didn't have any business having the name displayed to start with.

Now it is a part of Divine wisdom that neither Christ nor His disciples enjoined any one proper name by which His church should be known during the present dispensation. If the terms "Church of Christ," "Christian Church," "Church of God," Saints, Elect, and so on had been given as the proper name, then the most heretical sects set up by men WITHOUT AUTHORITY FROM GOD, could call themselves by one of these names and make that an argument why they should be recognized as the true church. This is exactly what the Campbellites and the Church of God (holiness?) are doing. They think they are the true churches because they have adopted one of the many names by which the followers of Christ are called in the New Testament.

In the New Testament the followers of Christ are called "disciples, believers, saints, brethren, elect, sheep, branches, light, salt, etc." They never called themselves Christians! They were first called Christians at Antioch, a heathen city. They received this name — not from God, but from the heathen. It was a slanderous nickname and like all nicknames, it stuck. The name occurs in Acts 11:26-28; Acts 26:28 and I Peter 4:16.

The term "sheep," is in all probability because of the one that gave it, more scriptural than the nickname "Christian." THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH USED THAT ONE. The enemies of the church used the other.

The church is referred to as the "Church of Christ, Church of God, House of God, etc." I believe it is more scriptural to say the "Sheep Church" than to say the Christian Church.

III. LET ME ASK, WAS THE ASSEMBLY INSTITUTED AND ESTABLISHED BY CHRIST A BAPTIST CHURCH?

If we mean in name, that is, that it wore the title Baptist — no; BUT IF WE MEAN IN DOCTRINE AND PRACTICE, YES, YES, YES! If we mean that sound churches today, known as Baptist, are its descendants and its present day expressions, yes!

If you could take that first church and set her over in our day and age, practically everyone would recognize her as a Baptist Church. Of course, she would be hated and rejected by the world. Most certainly, the false man-made organizations would say it is an unscriptural Baptist Church. Surely, all the so-called Baptists of the day would consider her to be a false church, but that wouldn't take anything from the church Jesus built.

Now, let me give you one reason these false churches of our day wouldn't recognize the church which was present during the earthly ministry of Jesus. Because the early church had baptism from John the Baptist and, according to these ungodly organizations, that wasn't Christian Baptism. Since this is

true, then if the church of Jesus' day could be brought over into this century, the only church that would receive their baptism would be sound Missionary Baptist Churches, because only they recognize John's baptism as being Christian-Baptism.

So, let me give you this in closing: To the question purposed: Was the church established by Jesus a Baptist Church? I say without a shadow of doubt, YES, IT WAS DEFINITELY A BAPTIST CHURCH! What else could she have been? The first New Testament preacher was called a Baptist. God sent a man named John whom Jesus called The Baptist (Matt. 3:1). This man was to prepare a people made ready for the Lord. Jesus took of this prepared material and instituted and established His church. The same God-sent man whom Jesus called Baptist even baptized Jesus, who was and is the Head of the church.

I love dearly the name Baptist, but I do not base my convictions upon just the name.

I base my convictions upon two things in particular:

(1) The doctrines held by the early church, with comparison of them to what sound Baptist churches hold today.

(2) Then there is the promise of God to perpetuate His church. He's brought her safe thus far and He shall lead her safely on. He's seen to it that she hasn't been overcome by all the trials that have come her way and He'll see to it that she is brought safely home to forever be with Him.

So, in closing, I pray that the Lord might open your eyes if you see not the truth about His church. I pray that the Lord might use these several words for your spiritual good. May the Lord richly bless each of you!

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plain, outside of the Word of God. Humanly speaking, it is a great mystery that any one would spurn the Love of God. What is the reason? The Word of God speaks out here to let the world know why. They have not the love of God in them. These have the wrath of God abiding upon them. They have no hope and are without God in the World. They are "Dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1). Corrupt, tainted, putrid or perverted in character, given to bribery, dishonest, depraved, bad, immoral, rotten. Brother, this is how God looks on a sinner. No wonder Paul said to the Church at Ephesus, "...know ye not at one time ye were dead in trespasses and sins. This is how we were too. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. "Evil pursueth sinners" Proverbs 13:21. He will die in his sin unless he is saved in this life. His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins. He shall die without instruction (Proverbs 5:22). In the greatness of his folly, he shall go astray. The lost need Christ. The old prophet said, "Oh Lord, I know that no man that walketh can direct his own steps." All the ways of man are clean in his own eyes. But, oh, man, hast thou looked into the Word of God? The lost man loves his own self. He is covetous, boastful, proud, a blasphemer. He is disobedient

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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

Can one have assurance of salvation without having good works?
What is the relationship between the two?

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James 2:14, 17, 18, 20, 26: "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?" "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead being alone." "Yea a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works." "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

No, I do not believe a person can have assurance of salvation without having good works. I know a person can not have salvation without good works, therefore, I don't see how they could have assurance of salvation without good works. I assume the question here deals with one who was saved or, at least, professed to be saved and then fell away from God into sin; yet still says he has assurance. I know several people who are in this position. Personally, I doubt if most of them are saved. If they are saved, then I don't understand how they can have assurance of their salvation.

The Bible tells us that we know a tree by its fruit. This is true of ourselves as well as true of others. How could we know we are saved if we do not have any fruit to back us up? Would the Spirit bear witness with our spirit that we are the sons of God if we are being dominated by the desires of the flesh? I believe that, often times, God will use a lack of assurance to bring one of His sheep back from wandering. One might be caused to wonder: How can I be saved and live the way I am living? For these reasons, as well as others, I would say no, a person could not have assurance without good works. I do not mean that, if one sins a little or a lot yet they still have some fruit, they cannot have assurance; but if they have no good works then, no! they could not have assurance.

Your second question deals with the relationship between salvation and good works. Space will not allow a detailed exegesis on this subject for many a book has been written on this subject. I will say that the world, and I do mean the religious world, has much perverted the truth about the relationship between salvation and good works. I will add that, as far as I can see, any system of theology that has a part in salvation for man is a form of salvation by works. To

some this may be baptism, to others it may be living good, to others it may be church membership and to others it is free-willism. As far as I am concerned, these are all forms of salvation by works. One is the work of hands and the other is the work of the will — and man can do neither.

The proper relationship between salvation and good works is that salvation is the cause and good works is the effect. We perform good works not in order to be saved, but because we are saved. When we are saved, God gives us a love for Him and a desire to serve and please Him. This brings about good works as an evidence of the salvation God has performed in us.

The relationship between assurance and good works is that they testify to the world and to the individual saint that we know God and, therefore, we keep His commandments.

I do wish to add that the Bible teaches the child of God can and should have assurance of his salvation. Praise God, we can know we are saved! If one does not have this blessed assurance, then he can blame no one but himself. May we all live lives that rebound to the glory of God and thereby, we will be sure we are saved! A saint without assurance is not of much profit to the service of God.

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We are told in I John 5: 1, 10, 11, "WHOSOEVER believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: — He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made Him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of His Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son."

For one whose faith is in Christ, God has given these passages for the assurance of salvation. Good works has nothing to do with salvation for we are told, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit; which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour" (Titus 3: 5, 6).

While good works has nothing to do with salvation, yet we find that they do follow salvation, for we find that after the Apostle Paul had reminded Titus that we are not saved by works, he tells him, "This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men" (Titus 3:8).

Also, in Ephesians 2, after be-

ing told that we are saved by grace through faith and not of works, it is said, "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10).

In James we are told that faith is to be shown by our works and faith without works is dead (no faith).

From a study of the Scripture we see that salvation comes by grace through faith in Christ apart from any works. We also see that where there is faith, good works are sure to follow. Our good works show to others our faith, yet they are not our assurance of salvation. That assurance comes from the Word of God, for He has said, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" (I John 5:13).

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There are two kinds of believers in Christ: there is the nominal believer, and the steadfast or faithful believer. It is the nominal believer who is forevermore falling into a state of doubt as to his salvation, while on the other hand, the staunch believer is assured by the witness of the Spirit that his soul is eternally preserved in Christ (Rom. 8:16; Jude 1). Biblical assurance of salvation does not lead to Antinomianism, but to appreciation of God's saving grace, which appreciation is manifested in obedience to the Lord, and that obedience genders assurance.

The relationship between assurance of salvation and good works, is the relationship between cause and effect. For every action there is a reaction and for every cause there is an effect, and to avoid confusion that is often fatal it is necessary to keep cause and effect in their proper order. Good works are the result of salvation or the effect of it, and never the cause of salvation. Good works are in a secondary sense the cause of fellowship with God, but they are not the cause of sonship in God.

Peter says: "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall" (II Pet. 1:10). What Peter referred to in the words "these things" is found in the foregoing context of the immediate chapter, and are described in sharp and vivid detail. Peter says: "...giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness;

and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins" (II Pet. 1:5-9). I believe this Scripture without exegesis clearly answers the query, but will add this thought: when Peter says to the believer, "Make your calling and election sure," he does not imply there is something the believer can do which makes it sure in God's sight, but that there is much the believer can do to cultivate his assurance of salvation.

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to his parents, he is unthankful, unholy, without natural affection. A truce breaker, a false accuser, discontent, fierce, despiser of those that are good. Traitors, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. Brethren, these are last days sinners, never learning, never coming to the knowledge of the truth. This is what the Bible says about these people, not the preacher. Jesus said unto them, "you will not come to me that ye might have life." Jesus was hated. He said, "I receive not honor from men." Our business is to preach the Word, The Word will tell men of their lost estate. Not to let men feel at ease in their sin. If they are saved, they will thank you. If not, well, they already hate you anyway. Our reward is not of men. Our salvation is in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Our Bible tells us of a new birth; That is what Jesus meant when he said, "...Ye must be born again..." It also tells us of a second death, "this is the second death, whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire..." "This is the second death but Weep not: Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book and loose the seven seals thereof." It is He and He alone who can loose you and me from the bonds of sin and set us free. There is no other Saviour, no other sacrifice. If we reject Jesus, as in text 5:40, one is sure to face judgment and the fiery indignation of God. Paul told Timothy, "Them that sin, rebuke before all, that others may fear." (I Tim. 5:20). "But as many as received Him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" (Jn. 1:12). Romans 3:10, "As it is written, there is none righteous, no not one. There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God." Brethren, I am so happy it is written. Written by men moved of the Holy Spirit. Now we know without any doubt, "salvation is of the Lord." We see stickers on cars, "we found it," whatever that means. But they never found God. If they are ever saved, it will be because Jesus found them. Not the other way around. Jesus came to seek and to save that which is lost. "Salvation is of the Lord" (Jonah 2:9). II Thes. 2:13, "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" (II Thes. 2:13).

Thank God for His Word. Salvation is of the Lord. The call went out and they would not come. WHY? John 5:42 "Jesus said, "But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you." God's precious elect will go gladly to the wedding supper of the Lamb of God when the call comes, come up here, up above the sin, the war, the greed, and death, to see King Jesus and be with Him forever more. Amen.

THINGS

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that seeth me seeth him that sent me" (John 12:45).

When Christ made that declaration, He literally meant, "When you see me, you see the one that sent me into this world."

Years ago, in one of our Daily Vacation Bible Schools, a little lad looked up into my face and said, "Brother Gilpin, what is God like?" On the spur of the moment I gave him an answer that if I were to think about it for a hundred years, I wouldn't change. I said, "Buddy, God is just like Jesus Christ. Everything that you read in the Bible concerning Jesus, that is God." Beloved, you cannot read anything about Jesus but what you see God mirrored in Jesus Christ. Again: "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had WITH THEE BEFORE THE WORLD WAS" (John 17:5). As I said, some preachers have difficulty believing that Jesus was anything more than a man. Some preachers indicate that they do not believe that there is one bit more divinity or deity about Jesus Christ than there is about us. How any man could read this passage of Scripture and make such an assertion is beyond me. I insist, beloved, you cannot read it with an open, unbiased, unprejudiced mind without believing that Jesus Christ was God in the flesh. Once again, we are brought face to face with a direct, positive statement that Jesus Christ was God. Listen: "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, GOD WITH US" (Mt. 10:23). His name, Emmanuel, indicates that He was God, for the name means "God with us. Also, I believe that Jesus Christ was God because even the Father, Himself, spoke from the skies and declared that He was God. Following Jesus' baptism by that first Baptist preacher of all ages, John the Baptist, the Father from Heaven broke the silence by saying: "This is my beloved SON, in whom I am well pleased" (Mt. 3:17). Then a little while later, on that memorable day when Jesus Christ was transfigured on the Mount of Transfiguration, when the glory of God came down to rest upon Him, the Father again spoke from the skies, saying: "This is my beloved SON, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him" (Mt. 17:5). Beloved, in these two Scriptures, we have a declaration from the Father Himself whereby He declared that Jesus Christ was His Son. I say then that not only on the basis of the Scriptures, but on the basis of the declaration of God, His Father, I believe that Jesus Christ was God in the flesh.

When I look at the things which Jesus did, I am still more impressed by the fact that Jesus

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was God, for He said: "But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me" (John 5:36).

Great as the witness of John the Baptist was, Jesus says that He has a greater witness — a witness of works, which shows that the Father had sent Him. Beloved, look at His works. See Him that day when He worked the miracle of feeding 5,000 men, not counting women and children, and then picked up twelve basketsful of fragments when the meal was ended. See Him that day when starting with nothing, He fed 5,000 in a miraculous manner. Look, beloved, how our Lord Jesus Christ healed — not once, but many, many times. A man came with a deaf ear and went away hearing. A man came into His presence with a withered hand that would not move, and went away with a hand that was whole and well and strong. Men came into His presence borne upon couches and beds and walked away bearing the couch that carried them to the presence of the Son of God. Look, if you will, how the deaf heard, the dumb spoke, the lame walked, and how He healed the multitudes. Surely, beloved, looking at what Jesus Christ did, you can know that He was more than man, seeing what He did in the flesh.

Look at Him as He walked upon the Sea of Galilee, defying the laws of nature. He had made nature. He had made the laws of nature, but He suspended them temporarily and walked upon the Sea of Galilee in the presence of His disciples. See Him when He told those disciples to cast their net on the right side of the ship when they had toiled all night and had taken nothing, and when they did so, the net was strained to its capacity as those fishes were drawn in. Beloved, how did Jesus know that those fish were there? That in itself is sufficient proof to me that Jesus Christ was God in the flesh.

Look at Jesus when they brought dead ones into His presence. When Lazarus had been dead for four days, and was buried, Jesus walked along outside of the tomb and called, "Lazarus, come forth," and Lazarus came forth, bound and tied in the grave clothes. The Son of God said, "Loose him, and let him go." See Him as He spoke to that little girl who had died, and she arose and came to life. Jesus broke up that funeral and sent the mourners home rejoicing, because this widow's son was brought back to life. Look at Him at His own death and burial when He was buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, yet He came forth and broke the bonds of death, and rolled the stone away from the door of the tomb and came forth. Beloved, you can look at His deeds and know that He was what He claimed to be — the Son of God in the flesh.

Then, beloved, I want you to notice that what Jesus Christ did NOT do, also proves that He was God. There are some things that you and I do every day that Jesus Christ never did do. There are things that you and I do all through our lives that the Son of God never did do one time in His life, and what He did not do, proves to me that Jesus Christ was the Son of God in the flesh.

I. JESUS CHRIST NEVER

We go from strength to strength because we go from struggle to struggle.

DID SEEK ADVICE. How contrary to man! How unlike you and your pastor! Beloved, human beings actually need advice. You need advice on all matters pertaining to life—physically, materially, mentally, spiritually, religiously. My brother, Jesus Christ never sought advice one time in His life. In I Kings 3:7-9, we read of a man by the name of Solomon, who one day, came into the presence of God and admitted to God that he was but a little child, who knew not how to go in and out before the people, over which God had made him king, and he asked God to give him wisdom so that he might deal with those people. I tell you, my brother, Solomon, the wisest man of all ages, needed advice, and if Solomon needed advice, surely you and I need advice. But, beloved, Jesus Christ never asked for advice one time in His life.

II. JESUS CHRIST NEVER DID CHANGE HIS MIND. Beloved, you know how easy it is for us to change our minds, and you know how prone we are to do this. Sometimes I sit down to analyze some problems that may arise, and I may change my mind a dozen times before I come to what I think is a proper and probable solution to that problem. You know how easy it is for you to change your mind. Some individual will come along with a persuasive tongue, so to speak, and your mind will be swayed entirely from its former position. Beloved, Jesus Christ never changed His mind one time.

III. JESUS WAS NEVER IN A HURRY.

Read His life carefully. Study it analytically, beloved, and scrutinize every move that He made throughout the entirety of His ministry, and you will find that Jesus Christ never at any time got in a hurry. When He came out of the tomb, He did it so slowly and so deliberately that He even took time to fold the napkin and lay it to one side. In contrast, look at Simon Peter on the day when he learned that Jesus Christ was alive from the dead: "Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre" (Luke 24:12). You and I get in a hurry and sometimes wonder why God doesn't work any faster and move more quickly. You and I wonder about the slowness apparently with which God works. Beloved, listen, Jesus Christ was God and He never got in a hurry. When He made a world He took His time in doing so. When the Lord Jesus sent out the twelve apostles, He never got in a hurry. He knew that those twelve were going to represent Him. He knew what they were going to do. When He sent out the seventy, He never got in a hurry. When Jesus Christ performed His miracles, He never got in a hurry. Look at Him at the tomb of Lazarus if you want to see how slowly and deliberately He moved. The Word of God tells us that when He heard that Lazarus was dead, He tarried two full days where He was before He started back to Bethany where the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus was, so that when He got there, four days had elapsed from the time that Lazarus had died. I tell you, my brother, Jesus Christ never got in a hurry. You and I get in a hurry. We are always hurrying. They say today that the three words that characterize America are, "Hurry, Worry, and Bury." But Jesus Christ never got in a hurry. None but God could He be.

IV. JESUS CHRIST

NEVER DID SHOW PERSONAL FEAR.

What man or woman is there here tonight but what sometime in life has known personal fear? But not so with Jesus. When the Son of God came into the wilderness and met Satan and was forty days tempted of the Devil, culminating with those three vicious temptations aimed at Him — when Jesus was tempted to turn stones into bread, when He was tempted to throw Himself from the temple and thus make a display of Himself to the crowd, and to fall down before Satan and worship him and thus receive the homage of Satan and the honor of the world — beloved, He showed no personal fear. Look at Him when He cleansed the temple. When those people were in the temple making it a den of thieves instead of a house of prayer, our Lord showed no fear when He cleansed it. I can see Him as He drove the moneychangers out of the temple, when He made that whip and scourged them for making the temple a place of unholy gain. There was no personal fear manifested on the part of the Lord Jesus Christ. Look at Him when He was arrested and brought to trial and when He passed through those six trials — three Jewish and three Roman. Look at Him when He was brought to His crucifixion. He did not know the meaning of the word "fear," and the reason was, He knew what the end would be even before the beginning.

You know, beloved, there has been fear within your heart at sometime or other. You feared, as a child, the dark. You feared, as a child and maybe even as an adult, the flash of lightning and the peal of thunder. You have feared many times as you have felt in your pocket and found only an empty pocket there. You feared when you faced your trials and your problems and wondered what the outcome would be. You did not know what the outcome would be, so naturally you feared; but Jesus Christ never knew the meaning of personal fear.

V. JESUS CHRIST NEVER MADE A MISTAKE.

Long years ago, a man by the name of Paine wrote an article entitled, "The Mistakes of Moses." It was a lecture, and Mr. Paine used to go around, over the country delivering that lecture at the charge of ten dollars per person. I never did hear it. In fact, I wouldn't give ten cents to hear Tom Paine lecture on the mistakes of Moses, but, brethren, I would give a hundred dollars to hear old Moses lecture on the mistakes of Tom Paine. Well, beloved, Paine lectured on the mistakes of Moses, but he never lectured one time on the mistakes of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ never made a mistake. Abraham did. He made a mistake — not once, not twice, but many times. He started over into the land of Canaan, but he stopped at Haran. That was a mistake. When he got down into Canaan, he was tempted at the time of a famine to go down into the land of Egypt and he did so. That was a mistake. He brought a slave girl out of the land of Egypt and cohabited with her at the suggestion of his wife, and produced a lad by the name of Ishmael. He lied about his wife and said that she was his sister — not once, but twice. Those were mistakes.

David made a mistake. He numbered his army once contrary to God's command. He committed the sin of adultery

with Bathsheba. David made many mistakes.

Simon Peter made mistakes. He denied his Lord three times. He cursed when he was questioned about his denial. When he was questioned, Simon Peter cursed in order to make that denial emphatic. Simon Peter made mistakes.

If you will read through the Word of God, you will find that Solomon made mistakes. He married and had 700 wives, and in addition, had 300 concubines. Solomon thus made at least a thousand mistakes. You can turn through the Word of God and find that his life shows forth one mistake after another, but not so with Jesus. Beloved, what Jesus did not do, in that He never made a mistake, proves to me that He was God.

VI. JESUS CHRIST NEVER SHOWED SURPRISE.

The disciples were surprised. They were even amazed, but not so with Jesus. The Lord Jesus knew what Judas was going to do. He knew everything concerning Judas before Judas ever did it. Jesus said: "Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve" (John 6:70). Beloved, Jesus Christ was not surprised when Judas betrayed Him. He knew about it before it came to pass. Jesus Christ never showed surprise. The disciples were surprised, but not Jesus. You will notice that Simon Peter denied his Lord. Simon Peter denied his Lord and punctuated his denial with profanity, but, beloved, Jesus was not surprised. He knew all about it before it came to pass. In fact, beloved, Jesus said to Simon Peter before it happened, "Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice." I tell you, beloved, when you analyze His character, you come to this conclusion, that Jesus Christ was none other than God.

VII. JESUS CHRIST WAS NEVER DEFEATED IN A CONTROVERSY.

How many times you have met some individual that has maybe wanted to argue politics or religion, or who wanted to argue relative to the material things of this world and you argued, and you discussed, and many times you would come away the loser of the battle, but not so with Jesus. The Son of God was never one time defeated in a controversy.

The Word of God tells us in Matthew 22 how that three crowds ganged upon Him in one day. The Sadducees came unto Him and said, "There is a woman who under the Mosaic law has been married to seven brothers. One by one they have died. Therefore in the resurrection, whose wife shall she be of the seven?" They thought they had Him trapped.

On this same day, another crowd gathered around Him and said, "This matter of taxes, what shall we do about it? Shall we pay taxes or not." Jesus said, "Show me a penny." They brought out a denarius, and Jesus said, "Whose is the image and the superscription on it?" They said, "Caesar's." Jesus said, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's: and unto God the things that are God's. When they heard these words, they went away. Then a Pharisaic lawyer, who was shrewder perhaps than all the rest, said, "Master, what is the greatest commandment in all the law?" He thought he was going to trap

Him. Yet, beloved, when Jesus finished with that lawyer, he and all that crowd refused to ask him another question. They were defeated, but Jesus was never defeated in a controversy. I tell you, beloved, that Jesus Christ was truly God.

VIII. JESUS CHRIST NEVER PERFORMED ONE SELFISH MIRACLE.

If you could work miracles, for whom would you work them? You know as well as I, that if you could work miracles, the first one that you would work for would be the person you see when you look into the mirror. You would perform a miracle for yourself, but the Lord Jesus Christ never performed one selfish miracle. Read your Bible all the way through the four Gospels and you will find that Jesus healed, but not Himself. You will notice that He performed miracles for food, but that He hungered for forty days in the wilderness and never performed a miracle for the feeding of His body. You will find that in all the miracles that He performed, that never one time did He perform a selfish miracle. None but God was He.

IX. JESUS CHRIST NEVER DISTRUSTED GOD.

Beloved, you could not say that. Hasn't there been some times in your life when you faced a problem that might have broken you, that might have wrecked you, and you looked up and said, "Oh, God, why did it happen?" Jesus Christ never distrusted God. Even in His darkest hours, even in that time when He hung upon the Cross — in that hour, beloved, when the Lord Jesus Christ was dying for our sins, He said: "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46). Beloved, Jesus Christ never distrusted God.

X. JESUS CHRIST NEVER DENIED A GOOD REQUEST.

Many requests were made of Jesus that He did deny, but He never denied a good request. When individuals came with a sincere, honest request, He never denied it one time. I tell you, brother, He yearns to bless you and me. I truly believe that God wants to bless us more than He does. I truly believe that He wants to give us blessings upon top of blessings if we would only merit His blessing. He never denied one good request.

XI. JESUS CHRIST NEVER CONFESSED A SINGLE SIN.

"Which of you convinceth me of sin?" (John 8:46). Every day, if you are in a healthy spiritual estate, you go to God and confess your sins and ask God to forgive you for them, but Jesus Christ never confessed one sin. Simon Peter referred to Him as: "A Lamb without blemish and without spot" (I Peter 1:19).

Paul says: "For he hath made him WHO KNEW NO SIN, to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (II Cor. 5:21). In writing to the Hebrews, Paul says: "Who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens" (Heb. 7:26). Brother, sister, Jesus Christ never confessed one sin. None but God was He.

XII. JESUS CHRIST NEVER APOLOGIZED ONE.

(Continued on Page 6 Column 1)

THINGS

(Continued from Page 5)

SINGLE TIME FOR WHAT HE HAD DONE.

How many times has it been necessary in your life for you to seek out someone that you might apologize? I think that you and I spend much time in seeking others so that we might extend apologies for what we have done. Listen to me, not once did Jesus apologize for one single thing that He ever did.

CONCLUSION:

Look at these twelve things that Jesus Christ never did do. He never sought advice. He never changed His mind. He was never in a hurry. He never showed personal fear. He never made a mistake. He never showed surprise. He never was defeated in a controversy. He never performed a selfish miracle. He never distrusted God. He never denied a good request. He never confessed a sin, and He never apologized. Beloved, you see in those twelve particulars why Jesus Christ was God in the flesh.

As I said in the beginning, I believe He was God because of the testimony that we have in the Scriptures. I believe that He was God because twice God said, "This is my beloved Son." I believe He was God because of the miracles and the works that He did. Beloved, what He did not do also proves to me abundantly, and more than abundantly, that Jesus Christ was God. Beloved, if He were God, surely you should not doubt it. If He were God, surely you ought to accept it in the light of what I have said. If He were God, then you ought to take Him seriously at His word. Jesus said: "Repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15). He never said for you to be baptized, or to join the church, or to turn over a new leaf, or to reform, or to keep the law, or give to missions, or to live up to the Ten Commandments in order to be saved, but He did say to repent, and believe the Gospel. The Gospel is that Jesus died for our sins. Oh, might you repent, and might you believe the Gospel that Jesus Christ died for your sins. May God bless you!

SERVANT

(Continued from Page 1)

teaching" (pass on the knowledge you have obtained, instruct those that are made pupils and baptized into Christ's church, Matthew 16:18 and Acts 2:47). And, is not this instructions or teaching to be: "to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:18-20). Is not our opening verse, also, one of our Lord's commands unto the faithful servants and if it is, then it too should be observed!

"Preach the Word." What is more important? Does not the man who desireth the office of a bishop, desireth a good work (I Timothy 3:1), truly is not this the most wondrous blessing God could bestow upon a man, other than redemption through the shed blood of Jesus? "Preach the Word" — "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And

how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

(Romans 10:13-15). "Preach the Word" thou servant of the Lord, His Word will not return void (Isaiah 55:8-11). Proclaim the truth, for this shall set men free and set them apart from their wickedness (John 8:32, 36 and John 17:17). As Moses lifted up the serpent — so should you lift up the Son of God (John 3:14-15). Testify unto all men of this One called Jesus. He who died to save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21), of the one who proclaimed "it is finished" (John 19:30), the "Beloved" of whom we are accepted in before God (Ephesians 1:3-7). Do not be so overcome by doctrine that you forget to proclaim Christ the Saviour, Him in whom God is so well pleased (Matthew 3:17 and 17:5).

"Be instant in seasons, out of seasons." Take your stand, be urgent — for Christ declared: "Surely I come quickly" (Revelation 22:20). Be alert — be watchful over the flock that God has placed you with, for "your adversary, the devil, like a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8). When we think of the seasons, are not there bad times and pleasant times — is not your preaching as well? God bears on your heart and you are given difficult messages to preach, knowing that they may hurt your family, members or offend that visitor who thinks so highly of you, yet you proclaim God's message for you cannot deny, but must preach the full counsel of God. Knowing that "the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrew 4:12). Yes, it shall accomplish God's purpose. (Isaiah 55:11).

"Reprove, rebuke." How often is it when one of influence offends and nothing is done? Seems as if all become silent or turn away as if nothing has happened. Be not afraid, thou servant of the Lord, did Nathan become afraid and not bring God's message (II Samuel 12:1-13) to King David, a man of great influence, NO — he was faithful to do what God wanted. So, therefore convince and convict the offenders through the preaching of the Word, knowing "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him, let him know, that he who converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins" (James 5:19-20).

"Exhort." Invite or invoke them near, yes beseech or entreat earnestly unto the offenders even if it brings tears to your eyes (II Corinthians 2:4). Receive them as weaker in the faith (Romans 14:1). Approach thy brother and "tell him his fault between thee and him alone; if he shall hear thee, THOU HAST GAINED THY BROTHER" (Matthew 18:15).

"With all longsuffering." Show thy forbearance, that longsuffering — "that quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish" or that patience — "the quality that does not surrender to cir-

When Jesus speaks, let fallible mortals hold their peace.

cumstances or succumb under trial" (Vines Exp. Dict. of N.T. Words, pg. 456). Be as God declared of Himself by Nahum the Prophet, "The Lord is slow to anger" (Nahum 1:3) and also Paul's teachings unto Titus, "For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God, not self-willed, not soon angry..." (Titus 1:7).

"But be ye doers of the word" (James 1:22) becoming an example unto them as God led Paul to do for you (I Corinthians 10:31 to 11:1 and Philipians 3:13-17).

"And doctrine." Many have gone to extremes at this point. Some to hardshellism and some to only preaching salvation as the only theme of their messages. Both are wrong, Christ told Peter to "Feed My Sheep" (John 21:17). You must be able to rightly divide the Word in order to feed the sheep and this comes by prayer and study (Psalm 119:26-27 and II Timothy 2:15). Christ in His high priestly prayer declared: "Sanctify (separate, set apart) them through thy truth, thy word is truth." (John 17:17). The Psalmist also said, "Through thy precepts I get understanding; therefore, I hate every false way" (Psalm 119:104). Should not, then, the servants of the Lord preach doctrines such as: the local-visible New Testament Baptist Churches and their perpetuity to the first church started by Christ during His earthly ministry; that baptism is immersion (the proper mode) of a proper subject by a proper administrator in a proper church; that the elements of the Lord's Supper are wine and unleavened bread — observed in closed communion. What of the woman's position in the churches or their homes, or of discipline in the churches, the churches independency of each other, their missionary endeavors and responsibilities, the preaching of the precious gospel of Christ, the doctrines of Grace, tithing or the pre-trib rapture and the pre-millennial return of Christ, etc. — these truths as well as all of God's Word should not be denied and silenced, but PREACHED — PREACHED — PREACHED again and again until God says to stop.

I trust as I conclude this article that it has been a blessing to some and that it may have made others take time and think about their ministry and service unto God. May we now close with the following Scripture: "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28).

DEFINITIONS

"DEGENERATE"

by Ray Hiatt
Fort Myers, Fla.

This is a word found once in Scripture (Jer. 2:21) and speaks of the natural decline which accompanies estrangement from God. This leads me to speak of sin and what sin is. My definition is, "sin consists of acting without authority from God, or of failing to act when authority exists." My definition of "degeneration" is "that natural decay or decline which must result from sin."

Almighty God is the power which generates all things.. hence the word "generation."

A TRIBUTE TO MY FATHER

Written upon the death of John James of Rocky Mount, N.C.

The man of whom I write today,
Is dear to me in every way.
A part of him I've come to be,
He'll be forever in my memory.

A friend to everyone he met,
The type of man you'll not forget.
Always the same from day to day,
Never a harsh word did he say.

The pain he bore we'll never know,
For no bitterness did he ever show.
Only suffered in quietness within,
Never a complaint to the very end.

Sometimes I wonder how could there be
A man so wonderful as he?
There'll never be another to compare,
No one like him anywhere.

Often I cannot bear to think he's gone,
The quietness makes me feel so alone,
But then I think of those happy days
When he was alive in so many ways.

The special things only he could do,
The special warmth from him I drew.
His smiling face and easy way,
The sweetest words only he could say.

I'll never forget that special touch,
Oh, he was loved so very much.
I was blessed to have a father like him.
He was like a rare and precious gem.

His family and friends did love him so,
And, oh, how sad to see him go!
But, on to a better home than here,
Where there's no pain, no death, no fear.

Thank you, Lord, for lending him a while,
Help me be not sad, but render a smile,
To think he's up in Heaven with You.
Beyond the clouds, beyond the blue.

His Loving Daughter,
Sharon Jeffries

Degeneration is the reverse and is attended by corruption. Men's bodies "degenerate" because of sin. The created universe has "degenerated" because of sin and judgment. Baptist churches "degenerate" when they become enamored with power, self and pride instead of the adoration of the Saviour.

For example, I have preached for years that mission boards (ALL MISSION BOARDS) will positively degenerate into mere political power structures, because ALL MISSION BOARDS exist without authority from God. There is a mission board, which I shall not name until I define my way to "M," which once solely contained men who believed in Sovereign Grace. Yet, by natural process of decay, this mission board is now deluged with Arminianism, and you can see the "degeneration" daily.

There are certain natural laws which are inexorable. DEGENERATION MUST FOLLOW SIN. It is inescapable. If we act where we have no authority or if we fail to act upon the commands of God, then we "degenerate" to the degree of our failure. Any structure that God does not build has "degeneration" built within it. I have heard sincere men bemoan the declined state of The Southern Baptist Convention. I merely smiled when I told them of the inevitability of such a process.

This touches the child of God and Baptist churches. I have viewed the "degeneration" of Baptist churches because of a disordered emphasis. The Arminian bodies (who say they are Baptists) have degenerated unto grandiose size in inverse ratio to the "hardshell" degeneration in-

to withered pomposity. (If you can find anyone more pompous than a "hardshell" it will be a new thing to my eyes). If we would escape the contraptions of the one and the dusty mold of the other, we must have one emphasis... "For to me to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21). "To Live" is not "numbers" or nostrums of fatalism. The essential vitality of a church or a child of God is in the person of the Saviour. Any church shall degenerate, as shall any Christian, who does not stand close to Jesus. Of a certainty we must be doctrinally correct, yet our correctness must be a weal of vitality from the Son of God.

In this respect The Baptist Examiner plays a vital role. There are papers with a wider circulation, there are papers with writers of loftier degrees, there are papers who wield a greater influence in the world of men, but NO PAPER HAS PLAYED AS GREAT A PART IN ASSUAGING THE "DEGENERATION" OF DOCTRINAL STANDARDS AMONG THE BAPTISTS AS THE BAPTIST EXAMINER.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Little Harbor AnaBaptist Mission, Little Harbor Road, Garden, Mich, 49835 is having an organizational service August 28th, 1983. This is to be preceded by a Pastor's Fellowship beginning August 22nd. For further information, contact pastor Dave Hires.

The Bible Says...

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit (Rom. 8:1).

It sometimes takes rough tools to remove the rust from our hearts.

BRIEF STUDIES ON THE CHURCH

By The Editor

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints" (Rev. 19:7-8).

This will be my last article in this series on the church. These studies have certainly not exhausted, nor even adequately covered, the subject; but I intended them only as "brief" studies. I will not continue these extra articles of mine for the present. I desire to give this space to other men. I have only used it because of scarcity of material sent in by others. I do urge the brethren to be faithful in sending me sermons for The Baptist Examiner. If suitable material is provided by others, I will only have my T.B.E. Pulpit sermon and the Editorial in future issues, in the main.

I have been criticized by some for not using more men of the past in T.B.E. I suppose that each must do as he sees fit and proper in these matters. There are many great and wonderful sermons by men who are now in glory, well worthy of publication. However, these sermons are already in print, and can be purchased and read. My major reason for not using more such sermons is that I desire to get our readers acquainted with, thinking about, and praying for the men of our day who are preaching the truth. T.B.E. cannot help the ministry of those now in glory, but maybe can help living preachers of God's truth. I plan to reprint many sermons by John Gilpin, and a few by others now departed, but I mostly desire to use living men in this paper. Comments and suggestions as to this are welcome and will be prayerfully considered.

We come now to study the Future of the Church. We have already studied the matter of Perpetuity. We believe that true churches will be continued on earth by our sovereign God until Jesus comes again. What I desire to present now is the matter of the eternal future of the Church, or of some of the members of the church. What are the glorious possibilities which lie ahead for those in the church?

Let me say, though I know that many of my dear brethren will disagree with me, that I believe and teach that there are some rewards for those outside the church. I do expect to see many of God's people, who were never members of a true church on earth, receive many rewards at the judgment seat of Jesus Christ. I think I can prove this by the Word of God. However, let me hasten to add that the highest and greatest of rewards will be for those who have been obedient to the Word, and joined true churches and served the Lord therein. Of course, we all agree that this matter relates only to believers in this church age. We will all agree that saints of other ages will be rewarded for good works.

I desire, at this time, to speak on the subject of The Bride of Jesus Christ. I believe that this is the greatest and highest

reward any believer will ever receive. I further believe that one must be in a true Baptist Church to even have the possibility of being in the Bride. Now this question as to who shall be in the Bride of Christ is a very important one. Satan realizes its importance, and has greatly perverted it. This doctrine has a motivating power when received in the power of the Holy Spirit. It was given by God to be used to motivate believers, moving them to endeavor to be the kind of Christians who would be rewarded by being in the Bride. Satan has invented the doctrine, which most believe, that if one is saved he will automatically be in the Bride. Believing that he is automatically in the Bride, one will not pray and work and obey from a desire to be in the Bride. By perverting the truth about the Bride, Satan has thus taken away one of the motivating truths of the Word of God. Satan does not want you to endeavor to be the kind of Christian who will be in the Bride of Christ. So, He perverts this truth, using heretics on the subject to teach you that you will automatically be in the Bride no matter how you live or what church you are in. Satan's perversion of this truth has promoted much low living, little serving, and being in false churches among believers.

Let us look at some introductory matters. There is much difference in believers, which we recognize, yet we would not want to make such difference a matter of saved or not saved. There is much difference in churches: as to origin, practice, and doctrines. Beloved brethren, these differences are not going to be obliterated or be of no concern in eternity. Then there is the doctrine of rewards. False preachers on the subject may ridicule the subject, but they ridicule the Bible when they do this. These matters of present differences in believers, differences in so-called churches, and the doctrine of rewards all relate to the matter of the Bride of Jesus Christ.

Now, what does it mean to be in the Bride. Of course, this is somewhat a figure. Of course, there are many things relative to human marriages which will not be a part of being in the Bride of Jesus Christ. What is involved in this? First, it is to receive the highest reward one can have. Secondly, it means to have the place of closest intimacy with Christ for all eternity, just as the bride is closest of all to her husband. Thirdly, it means to be in the army of the Lord at the battle of Armageddon. A careful comparison of Revelation 19:8 and v. 14, noting the words "fine linen, clean and white" will show this to be true. Fourthly, to be in the Bride means to have a special place of ruling with Christ during the Millennial Reign of Christ. Fifthly, it means to have a special home through eternity. A careful study of Revelation 21 & 22 will show that there are those saved ones who will live in the new Jerusalem eternally, and those who will walk in the light thereof, being privileged to visit the city, but not to live there. The city described in these two chapters is to be the eternal

home of the Bride of Jesus Christ. This is crystal clear if we just believe the Bible.

"Unto the church of God which is at Corinth...", "...I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ" (II Cor. 1:1; 11:2). These verses, as all as others, show that there is an indissoluble connection between being in a true church of Jesus Christ (a Sovereign Grace Landmark Missionary Baptist Church, if you please) and being in the Bride of Christ. True churches are local and visible. Only Baptist Churches are true churches. Therefore, one must be a member of a true Baptist Church to be in the Bride of Jesus Christ.

But this is not all it takes to be in the Bride. It is necessary to be in a true church to be in the Bride, but this is not the only necessity. Some will live and die in a true Baptist Churches who will not be in the Bride of Christ. This is true because being in the Bride is a reward, and because rewards are given on the basis of obedience.

Revelation chapters 2 & 3 relate to true churches of this church age. In these chapters we read of those who are "overcomers," and who will receive special rewards for "overcoming." Who are these overcomers? They are not all believers, for there are believers who are not even in true churches. They are not just church members, for all church members do not "overcome." They are loyal, faithful, clean-living members of true churches who overcome in their lives and services for the Lord; and are thus rewarded by being in the Bride. Read Revelation 3:4, 5, 12, 21. Note the words in these verses, "They shall walk with me in white... I will confess his name before my Father... I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God...and I will write upon him my new name... I will grant to sit with me in my throne." All these expressions relate to one being in the Bride as can be plainly seen. So, the overcomers are those who will be in the Bride of Christ; not all believers, but only those who overcome. One might say that there are some promises to overcomers which will be given to all believers. This is true, for after all, overcomers are believers, too, and will have all that any believer has. But some of the promises do not apply to all believers, but only to those in the Bride.

Being in the Bride is a matter of rewards for good works. "...his wife hath made herself ready" (Rev. 19:7). This is a matter of good works. It does not relate to salvation. One does not make himself ready for salvation. Salvation is by the sovereign grace and irresistible power of God. Note Revelation 19:8, "arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints." This is not the imputed righteousness of Christ, which is a garment worn by all believers. This is the righteousness of the saints, performed by them through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit. All the saved in glory will have on the beautiful garment of the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ. The Bride, in addition to this, will have on the garment of the righteousness of saints — wrought out of the material of the good works of the saints.

(Continued on Page 8 Column 1)

MISSION REPORT

Dear friends,

Greetings to each of you from Papua New Guinea. We trust that this will find each of you rejoicing in the marvelous blessings of the Lord. We here in Papua New Guinea have much to be thankful for. God continues to watch over us and bless daily. It seems that with each passing day I realize more and more that I do not deserve the least of His mercies. If, however, God only bestowed His mercies upon only those that deserved it, He would have to create a new race of people or some other beings, for none are righteous, no, not one!

As we write (June 6), the year is nearly half gone. We seem to have accomplished so little this year. So much time spent in the hospital and then, at home convalescing. However, as we look around there has been considerable progress made in the work, etc. There have been several baptizings, four ordination services, thus far one Bible Conference to date, and one new church organized. Our Bible School has got ten underway, and several literacy classes being taught, all in spite of the fact that money is tight with us.

In the area where we have had so much trouble from the Lutherans a new church has been organized. We have had a mission there for several years and a couple of months ago the people requested to be organized into a church. That entire area continues to be blessed of the Lord. Both Lutherans and non-professors continue to be saved and added to the Lord's Churches. Before the big trouble, several of the churches were very small, but most of them now have grown to good size churches and all are growing in grace.

The work in the Nogoli area (Huli tribe) continues to spread and grow. We have just opened up a large area, our first time in this area, at the request of the people. Another group wants us to visit them this week with a view of starting services with them. Another group will start a new building this week that we may preach to them — and so it goes.

For quite some time now, and never before in this new area, we have had no outward manifestations of opposition from either the Catholics or Protestants. Now, however, the ill winds of unrest have started to blow again, so we know by that we are doing some good here. For several years I have been visiting this area and was the only missionary to do so. Before the road was put in I would sometimes manage to get in there with my vehicle, and then, at times when I was ready to leave, have to wait for a day or two until the rains stopped so I could get out. No other missionary wanted that type of ministry. As a result this large area lay waiting and forgotten by the world. Long before the road was completed, I had established myself in the area, but still no one paid any attention to me — the other missions sent their local pastors, etc., but never dared come themselves. Right after the turn of this year our work here began to pick up and we had begun to erode some of the heretical groups. Still, little attention was paid to us.

This past week I had to go out to Hagen to the hospital again, was away most of the week, and while I was gone both the Catholics and Protestants exploded. I was told that two

Missionary To New Guinea
Eld. Fred T. Halliman



FRED T. HALLIMAN

Send your offerings for the support of Brother Fred T. Halliman to:
New Guinea Missions
c/o Calvary Baptist Church
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.

Catholic priests came to the Mission Station and asked what sort of a settlement was this (they knew full well). When told this was a Baptist Mission, they replied, The Catholics we know about, the Protestants we know about, but the Baptists we have never heard of before. They said this must be some sort of foul spirit that has blown in here and you had better get rid of him. They threatened to start burning down church buildings, etc., and do whatever else was necessary to run us off. We will not be surprised at any trouble that comes our way, including tribal fighting, etc., stirred up by them in order to try to disrupt our work.

The Catholics work pretty much like the Russian KGB. In fact, inasmuch as the Catholics have been around for a long time and the KGB is a rather late comer, I would not be surprised at all if the KGB did not get their idea of operation and perhaps training under the Catholic organization. They will incite riots, fights and all sorts of trouble, and then, step in about the middle of the game and act as a peace maker, to try to cover up what they have started so people won't suspect them. I have been doing some undercover research work for several years on the practices and procedures of the Catholics. I am pretty well convinced, at this stage, that they are more lethal than the Communists and pose a greater threat in many ways to world peace than do the Communists.

We held our first official service yesterday in the area upon the mountain that has quite a large population. There were lots of menfolk out, but only two young females. This is to be expected, especially, among the Huli people.

Later on though the women will start coming. There is a large population of children in this area and so a good prospect for some sound Baptist churches in the future.

(Continued on Page 8 Column 1)

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TUNE IN TO THE CALL TO CALVARY

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

MISSION

(Continued from Page 7)

We will soon be organizing another church in the Huli area, as one group has already requested to be organized into a church. In another two weeks we will have another ordination service over in the Duna area. We will have three preachers to ordain at that time. So the work continues to grow and function now as a normal, healthy Baptist work. Praise the Lord for that!

Last week I was back at the hospital and the doctor put me to sleep and attempted to "unfreeze" my arm and shoulder to get it back to proper working order again. Some of the natives were with me and watched the doctor at work and they said they thought he was going to twist my arm off. At this point in time, I can tell no difference, except it is very sore from the operation. He told me that I would most likely have some permanent disability — didn't say to what extent. My right forearm that was cut so badly is giving me quite a bit of trouble now. The sinew was severed and they never attempted to rejoin that. In due time it fused somewhat, but never did heal completely or properly. Now my wrist stays swollen a lot and I have nothing like full use of my right arm. All in all, though, I feel that I am doing fine. I have learned to do most of my work without the full use of my two arms and am able to supervise what I cannot do. So I have much for which to be thankful. The work continues to go on and grow. May the Lord bless each of you!

BRIEF STUDIES

(Continued from Page 7)

These two matters show beyond a controversy, that being in the Bride is a matter of rewards. Now, rewards are given for and based upon obedience. There are four kinds of obedience which are necessary to being in the Bride.

First, there is obedience as to the Church. One must be in a true church. One must be faithful in the church in order to be in the Bride. Brother, these church members who will not faithfully attend the church services (barring true, God-given and God-accepted reasons) will surely not be in the Bride of Christ. So, you are a member of a true Baptist church. That is good. You think that is enough to be in the Bride, so you just sit home, or run around the country visiting relatives, or having a big time. What a shock awaits you at the judgment seat of Christ! Most assuredly do I tell you that unfaithful church members will not be in the Bride. It takes something to be in the Bride. It costs time and money and effort and sacrifice to be in the Bride. One must love the church, love the brothers and sisters in the church, show that love in many ways if that one is to be in the Bride.

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Secondly, there is ceremonial obedience. I speak of the proper observance of the two ordinances Jesus Christ has given to His churches. There must be Scriptural Baptism to be in the Bride. When John the Baptist hesitated to baptize Jesus Christ, Jesus told him, "...suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness..." (Matt. 3:15). God-authorized, Baptism. Baptism is essential to having that robe of righteousness worn by the Bride. It is not all of that robe, but it is an essential part thereof. It is the first part of the weaving of that robe one must have to be in the Bride. Without Baptist Baptism there is not even the possibility of being in the Bride. Then there is the ceremony of the Lord's Supper. This is important. Those church members who absent themselves from this will not be in the Bride. I further believe that those who use the wrong elements in the Supper will not be in the Bride. In other words, I fear that grape-juicers will not be in the Bride of Christ. Our Lord takes this matter of the proper observance of His Supper as very important. We should, also.

Thirdly, there is doctrinal obedience. Those churches (if they truly be churches, and if they are too far off, they are not) which teach for doctrines the commandments of men, which do not teach the truth of the Word of God — they will not be in the Bride of Christ. Members of true and sound churches who do not believe the truths taught by their church, but do stay in the church, will not be in the Bride of Christ. Doctrine is very important to God. He did not speak forth the great and glorious truths of the Word just to be speaking. They are important. He considers them so. Those church members who make little of the Bible, do not believe its great truths, will surely not be in the Bride of Jesus Christ. So, to be in the Bride, one must be in a church which stands strongly for the doctrines of the Bible, and one must stand strongly for those truths himself.

Fourthly, there is moral obedience. I mean the obeying of the commands of God as to how one should live. How one lives is very, very important. Oh, my brother, let us preach that salvation is by the free grace of our God, that works and the life one lives have nothing to do with salvation. But let us also preach that it is very important as to how one lives in this world. It is important because: 1. If one does not live right, he probably is not saved. 2. If one is saved and does not live right, he will be severely chastised by the Lord. 3. Such will suffer loss of rewards he could have earned by an obedient life. 4. One who does not live right — according to the commandments of the Word of God — will certainly not be in the Bride of Jesus Christ.

To be in the Bride, one must live right in the Church, being a godly example to others in the church. One must be faithful, prayerful. One must give tithes and offerings in the church to be in the Bride. One who does not do this is a robber, and surely, we do not believe that robbers

will be in the Bride of Christ. One must be kind, loving, gracious, and godly in the church.

One must live right in the home. One must be a good wife, in subjection to her husband, kind and gracious, faithfully fulfilling her duties as a wife and housekeeper. One must be a good husband, faithfully setting a godly example to the home, being the proper head of the home and teaching truth to the home. One must be a godly child, obedient to parents, kind, loving, helping out around the home. Yes, one must live right in the home to be in the Bride of Christ.

One must live right in the world to be in the Bride of Christ. One must be a good neighbor, kind, considerate and helpful. Living a godly life in the neighborhood, having a good testimony for the Lord before others. One must live right on the job. Giving an honest day's work, not stealing from the company, not joining in the filthy conversation of others, but setting a good example of clean living before others.

One must be right in his own personal life. He must have clean and pure thoughts. He must be spiritual minded, giving much time to meditation on spiritual things. One must be prayerful. One must be faithful in studying the Word of God. One must be careful of where he goes and what he does, of how he talks and how he dresses. All these things are necessary to being in the Bride of Christ.

Our Lord is going to be very choosy about His Bride. He is very demanding in what He requires in this respect. It is not an easy thing, requiring no effort or sacrifice, to be in the Bride of Christ. You must be saved. You must have Scriptural Baptism. You must be in a true church. You must be a good, faithful church member. You must know, believe, and stand for the truth. You must live right. It takes time, money, effort, and sacrifice to be in the Bride of Christ. But, surely it will be worth it. To walk down the aisle of glory on that glad day to be married to Christ, to be His Bride forever and forever, to be closest to Him, to share His throne in the Millennium, to live with Him forever in the new Jerusalem, surely it will be well worth whatever it takes. Being in the Bride of Christ costs much, but it will eternally prove to be well worth the cost.

I said early that this doctrine has a motivating power. Does it not? Would it not improve your life and mine, would it not improve our churches, if we would pray about this matter, if we would earnestly endeavor to be the kind of Christian who would be rewarded by being in the Bride of Christ? Surely, one can see that the doctrine of the Bride, as I have presented it, would have an influence for good upon our lives. What would my life be if I took this matter more seriously? What would our churches be if all (or many) of its members took this matter seriously? Oh, it would be days of heaven or earth for us if we were more serious about being in the Bride! We would be faithful in our church, we would give and give, we would work hard, and we would see great revival in our churches. May God use this truth to move powerfully within our souls.

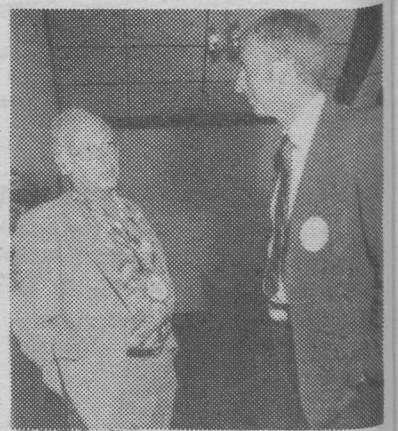
Dear friend, the possibility of being in the Bride of Christ lies in the future for those who are members of true churches of

Jesus Christ. This is the future of the Church, I trust these brief studies on the Church have been a blessing to you. I know I have left much out. I know I have not exhausted the subject. Who could? But I have said some important things which are well worthy of your consideration. Comments and questions will be welcome and may furnish material for further articles on this subject. The Church question is the most important question in the life of a believer. May God bless you all!

Some who attended our 1983 Bible Conference.



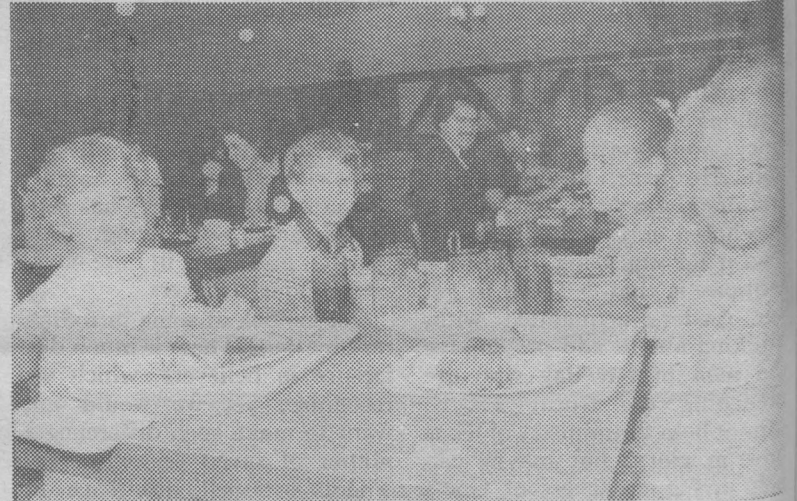
Two very faithful and single women of Calvary Baptist Church: Judy Rule and her mother.



John Gilpin Jr. straightening out Elder Ron Boswell.



Ruth Hall of Calvary Baptist Church performing a needed Conference job.



Four "great" grandchildren (mine).

ONLY 41 WEEKS UNTIL CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH'S NEXT BIBLE CONFERENCE

Start making your plans now

MY IMPRESSIONS

1983 Calvary Baptist Church's Bible Conference

A great opportunity for God's people to come together in fellowship around the precious truths in God's Word. Sovereign Grace Baptists are so few and far between, it's great to see them come together in numbers to sing praises to God and feed on His Word.

Bud Sawyer,
Centerville, Ind.

I enjoyed your conference again this year. I always enjoy being around Baptists, and rejoicing in the truths that are preached at these conferences. Those that did not come missed the blessing. I am also impressed by the friendliness and courtesy of the members of this church. May the Lord bless you.

Doug Newell,
South Shore, Ky.

As a first time visitor to the conference, I have to say, I was blessed by every aspect of the meeting, the preaching, singing and fine fellowship. My thanks to Bro. Joe and Sister Katie for their fine hospitality. This has to be the nearest thing to heaven that I have ever experienced.

Chester R. Powell
Burghill, Ohio

A great conference! Need more folks to enjoy these Bible conferences.

Samuel West
Griffin, Ga.

I was very impressed with the conference. In the smoothness with which the program was handled; in the subject matter that was presented; in the handling of so large a number of people, and still without problems that were evident to the visitors of the host church. I was impressed with the sweet fellowship of God's people, and can only pray that that sweet fellowship were evident within other meetings, and not only at these meetings places and times. But that the same were true and continued in our every day walk of life one to another, helping, lifting up, edifying, and not tearing down, back-biting, and harming one another's ministry.

Fred C. Beard
Cambridge City, Ind.

My impression of the conference could be summed up in the word, great. Great messages, great hospitality. Calvary Baptist is a great church. Brother Joe Wilson is a great host and the greatest "ad-libber" I've ever heard! Praise God, it's been a great experience for me!

Eleanor Jennings
Sunbury, Ohio