

Never be afraid of your Bibles.

TOTAL DEPRAVITY

by Gene Kiger
Winston Salem, N.C.

As I began concentrating upon this article, I was made to think of the many who do not believe this great truth from the Word of God. The men of whom I speak are said to be fundamental Bible-believing teachers and preachers. Yet, the way in which they present our Lord Jesus Christ, and more especially, the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation, proves to me that they do not believe this. Inasmuch as they take the control of salvation away from God and place it in the hands of a man. Those of whom I speak will deny that this is true, yet I ask each reader to reserve their own opinion until the facts are presented.

May I define the doctrine of Total Depravity. Man by his act of disobedience to God, has plunged himself into a state of sin. From which state he is totally unable either to deliver, or to help deliver himself. He has wholly lost all ability to will any spiritual good, Godward. He is in love with his condition, desiring only to continue in worldly pursuits and to entertain his own fleshly lust. He is dead in trespasses and sin, having no desire or means to bring about his own salvation.

Lest I be misunderstood, allow me to say some of what I do not mean by Total Depravity. I do not mean that man does not have a will, for the Bible in John 1:13 speaks of "the will of man." What I do mean is their will is to "love vanity and seek

after leasing." Nor do I mean that the depraved do not have a conscience. The Word again speaks of men being convicted by their own conscience (Jn. 8:9). Of their conscience I mean this, that it is a servant unto dead works and is itself evil. I do not mean to imply that any man is as wicked as he could be, nor that all men sin in equal amounts. One more thing while upon this point: I do not mean that wicked men cannot perform



Gene Kiger

"outward" good works, such as, being a good neighbor, or a good provider for his family, or a good employee. I do insist, however, that man do these things solely for their own good and/or glory, having absolutely no thought toward the honor or glory of God.

May I attempt to speak of the importance of this doctrine. This may well be called the foundation of the doctrines of grace, which are the true doctrines of the Word of God. When one has been given, by He the Holy Spirit, a correct understanding of total depravity

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MISSIONARY

PREMILLENNIAL

BIBLICAL

BAPTISTIC

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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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DIVINE GRACE RESTORES THE BACKSLIDER

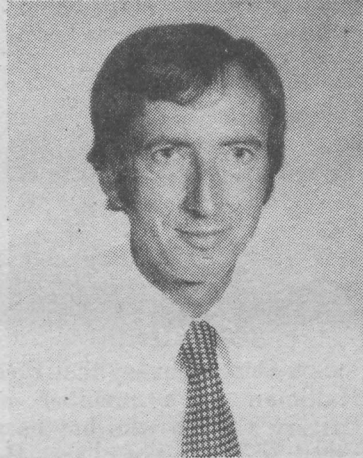
by Ron Boswell
Smithsburg, Md.

"...the Lord hath brought me home again..." (Ruth 1:21).

"So Naomi returned..." (Ruth 1:22). Many of the Lord's people have experienced backsliding to some degree. To wander from the Lord and His people has affected the weak as well as the strong. It is my prayer that this message would be blessed of the Lord to save some from this tragic experience and to reclaim those caught up in a backslidden condition.

I. Sheep Are Prone To Wander. A farmer would tell us that of all his livestock, sheep are more likely to wander off. Perhaps they are lured by greener pastures; perhaps they are too engrossed to realize how far they have gone; perhaps they have lagged behind the flock too far. Naomi's problem came

about due to circumstances beyond her control — a famine. This brought the enemy of faith, namely fear. Faith would have said, "Stay where God placed you and He will provide." Fear said, "You must escape the



Ron Boswell

famine by providing for yourself." Many backsliders can identify with this. You made a move away from God out of

fear. You were caught up in a circumstance out of your control and a rash move was made. So it was with Naomi and her family, listen:

"Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem - Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons. And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion..." (Ruth 1:1, 2). The names of the two sons may provide more light on the situation; Mahlon means "a sick person," Chilion means "wasting away." It could be that Naomi and her husband felt that these two boys would not be strong enough to endure a famine, that they would move in order to save the boys. Their

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THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

by Medford Caudill
Saipan Missionary

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh



Medford Caudill

his name in vain" (Exodus 20:7).

The hardest animal in the world to tame is the tongue. It takes a lot of patience and constant attentive care to bring it under control. There are many sins committed by the tongue. Among them are gossip, profanity, lying, cursing, perjury, swearing, and boasting. This third commandment prohibits both swearing and cursing. Lying and perjury are forbidden by the ninth commandment. Profanity is forbidden by Colossians 3:8. Gossip is forbidden to the Christian in Leviticus 19:16. Boasting is condemned in several places including Proverbs 27:1 and II Timothy 3:2.

What is the difference between swearing and cursing? Swearing is the taking of an oath in declaring something to be true. Cursing is demanding or asking for the condemnation or

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THE GREAT COMMISSION

by Carl Barnette
Ireland, W. Va.

This is the Great Commission, but to whom or to what



Carl Barnette

does it apply. What is its contents, and to what realm of time does this apply. I will endeavor

in my own humble way to answer these questions. Because the 28th Chapter of St. Matthew is so badly misunderstood, one of the first things we should know is how the Bible is divided in the realm of time. Everything from the book of Genesis to Malachi is God's record book of the past. From the Gospel of St. Matthew to Revelation Chapter 3 is God's record book of the present, and Revelation Chapter 4 to Revelation Chapter 22 is God's record book of the future. Now, as to what this contributes, we

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BEWARE CRIMINAL BEWARE

by Luther S. Hilton,
Pastor
Hobart, Ind.

Numbers 35:31: "Moreover ye shall take no satisfaction for the life of a murderer,



Luther Hilton

which is guilty of death: but he shall be surely put to death." Introduction:

Capital punishment is a much discussed issue in the present day. All sorts of humane and religious groups take their stand of opposition to this terrible and inhuman act (as they call it).

Now, in this writing, I will state some actual cases which I have personal knowledge of and others which I have read about.

I want you to suppose just for a moment that you and your wife have a daughter who is married. On your wife's birthday there arrives in the mail a large package about the size of a hatbox. I picture the wife as jumping up and down in excitement wondering what sort of wonderful gift she had received. She anxiously tears at the package trying to get it open! Inside she sees her much unwanted gift; her daughter's head! This was a true life story. I knew the man that served time

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The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Joseph M. Wilson

WHO IS A MISSIONARY AND WHERE IS THE MISSION FIELD

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mk. 16:15-16).

This Scripture is one reference to the commission given by the Lord to His churches. Since every saved person should serve the Lord in and through a true church, the commission, in some sense, applies to all believers. We are to endeavor, as best we are enabled, to carry the gospel of Jesus Christ to every individual on the face of the earth. I believe that this verse is a part of the inspired Word of God. I am not a

fan of that Textual Criticism which makes the last twelve verses of Mark to be a human addition to the inspired Word.

Please note that these verses do not teach that baptism is essential to salvation. It is here taught that faith is essential to salvation, and that all who believe are saved. Anything added to faith does not change the fact that faith saves. I might say that he that believeth, is baptized, joins a Baptist church, tithes, etc., is saved. Since all who believe are saved, anything I add to that does not alter that fact. Note that when damnation is spoken of in the text, there is no reference to baptism. This is because one who believeth shall

not be damned, even though he be not baptized.

A missionary is one sent on a mission, whatever that mission might be. However, in this message we are referring to a specific mission: that of getting the gospel to the unsaved. This is the most important mission in the world. Men may be sent on other missions, and these may be of great importance. One may be sent on an important political mission — one involving war or peace — and this is surely an important mission. However, as the soul is more important than the body — as eternity is more important than time, so the gospel mission is

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THE BAPTIST PAPER FOR
THE BAPTIST PEOPLE

JOSEPH M. WILSON, Editor

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WHO

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more important than all other missions combined

The importance of this mission may be deduced from the fact that it is God who sends us thereon. To carry out the mission of the Supreme sovereign of heaven and earth is more important than to carry out the mission of the highest of human dignitaries. This mission of getting the gospel to the unsaved involves the eternal destinies of men. Heaven or hell is at stake therein. We are not Hardshell heretics — those who say the gospel is not used in giving spiritual life, the new breed. Neither are we the old breed hardshells — who say one can die and go to heaven, being saved with an eternal salvation, without ever hearing the gospel. We are Missionary Baptists. We line up with the majority of Baptists who have taught continually that the gospel is used by the Spirit in the life-giving, soul-saving, salvation experience. Let there be no mistake as to this matter. We are Missionary Baptists of the old school (older than the so-called, but mis-called Primitive Baptists), who walk in the old paths, teaching the Word of God which says, "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth..." (Jms. 1:18). This verse means what it seems to mean, despite the heretical perversions of the Old and New Hardshells. This mission is a life and death mission. It is a mission involving the salvation or damnation of the souls of men. Yes, it is the most important mission upon which anyone was ever sent.

Who is a missionary? Well now, this is an important matter, is it not? Let me begin by saying that only a truly saved person can be a missionary. This is the only kind God sends on this mission. The unsaved are never given this most important mission. A truly saved person is the only one who is properly qualified to be a witness to the saving gospel of Jesus Christ. The saved person has experienced, in his own soul, the

saving power of the gospel. He has been brought to spiritual life by the Holy Spirit using that gospel. He has been begotten again by the gospel (I Cor. 4:15). Explain that verse, you hardshell heretics. And don't tell me that "begotten" means "to assist in the birth" or to be a "mid-wife." The same verse explains that the relationship of the gospel preacher and the born again one is that of Father and Son. The Father is used in the begetting of life, and is not at all necessary to the birth. Now, only one who has felt, in the depths of his soul, the life giving power of the gospel is qualified to tell others the glorious gospel of the Son of God.

All saved persons — each saved individual — are called of God to be a missionary. Make no mistakes on this vitally important point. There is much confused thinking on this matter



JOE WILSON

today. One might say that Fred Halliman is a member of Calvary Church who has been called to be a missionary. He may well be — and I believe he is — the greatest missionary we have. He may be — oh, I hope not — the only missionary we have who is doing his job. But I do insist that every truly saved member of this church has been called of God to be a missionary.

The effectual call of the Holy Spirit to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ constitutes and involves the call to be a missionary. There is not a further call to be expected or given in the matter of being a missionary. The call to salvation is a call to be a missionary. Every saved person is a God-called missionary. The question is not, are you called to be a missionary? The question is, are you being obedient to that call? If you are saved, you are a missionary, called to be such by the God who saved you. You may be a faithful, obedient missionary. You may be unfaithful and disobedient. But you are a missionary. Say, what kind of missionary are you?

Where is the mission field? Well, the Bible surely answers this question. The Bible is so clear on this point that there should be no doubt in anyone's mind on the matter. "The field is the world..." (Matt. 13:38). Despite the fact that the Bible is crystal clear on this matter, there is much false teaching and confused thinking on the subject. One wonders if the disobedience and failure of saved people to obey God in this matter is the cause of such confused thinking and teaching. Most folk will answer my text by saying that a missionary is a saved person who, in addition to being saved, has been specially called to some special field of missionary activity; and that the mission field is some specific part, usually in a foreign land, of the world. Beloved, according to the Word of God, every saved person is called to be a missionary, and the whole world is the mission field.

Someone will say that, in 1959, Fred Halliman was called to the mission field. No! Fred

Halliman was called to the mission field when God saved him. In 1959, he was called to a different part of the mission field. At that time, Fred Halliman was a missionary on the mission field of Chicago. Surely this was and still is a very needy mission field. In 1959, Fred Halliman was called to New Guinea, a different part of the mission field. Chicago and New Guinea are two different parts of the one Scriptural mission field — that is, the whole world.

The distinction between Home and Foreign Missions is man-made, totally unscriptural and even anti-scriptural. Home and Foreign are simply different parts of the one mission field — which is the whole world. After all, what is Home to one individual is Foreign to another one. New Guinea was a Foreign field to Fred Halliman in 1959. It was Home to the New Guinea natives. The whole world is the mission field, and every individual on the face of the earth is a part of that mission field.

Dear friend, your home is a part of the mission field. Do you have any unsaved people in your home? Is your wife, husband, parent, child, brother or sister unsaved? Any unsaved person in your home is as much lost and undone — as much in need of the gospel — as any heathen in any part of the world. Why will you give money to send missionaries to a foreign field, and pray for God to bless the missionaries on that field — and yet never give the gospel to that unsaved one in your home? God has placed that one close to you that you might have a special concern for that one, and might make a special and continued effort for the salvation of that one. Dear friend, you will likely never have the opportunity to give the gospel to a New Guinea native, but you can give it to that lost loved one in your own home. One of the greatest of missionary failures is the failure to give the gospel to those in one's own home.

Your relatives are a part of the mission field. Not only your immediate family now living at home, but all who are related to you are part of the mission field. Your brother and sister now living in other places. Your cousins, aunts and uncles — in short anyone who is related to you is a part of your missionary responsibility. Do you write them? Do you visit them? Do you talk with them on the telephone? Do you have any contact with them? Well, why do you not, in that contact, faithfully give them the saving gospel of Jesus Christ? It is my contention that God, by providentially placing us in relationship with others, has given us a special missionary responsibility to them.

Your friends are a part of the mission field. Do you have any, from among earth's millions that are sort of special friends of yours? Are you their friend? Are you faithfully doing the part of a friend by telling them the story of Jesus Christ and His saving gospel? What sort of friend is it who will not do for a friend the greatest kindness one can ever do? Your lost friend needs the gospel of Christ more than anything else — more than everything else put together. Would you give your friend food if he were hungry? Would you give your friend water if he were thirsty? Would you give your friend clothing if he were naked? Would you give your friend shelter if he were homeless? Of course, you would do all this, and much more, for your friend.

Pray tell me why you do not give him what he needs more than all these — that is the glorious saving gospel of Jesus Christ. Dear saved friend, the question is not, are you a missionary? Are you on the mission field? The question is, what kind of missionary are you, on that part of the mission field where God has placed you?

Your neighborhood is part of the mission field. Oh, my

neighborhood! That part of the mission field where God, in His providence, has placed me. I would be concerned about a plague that would hit my neighborhood. I would be concerned about poverty in my neighborhood. I would be concerned about great danger from wild animals, terrible storms, crime in my neighborhood. Why is it that I am so unconcerned

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FROM THE EDITOR

"Judge not, that ye be not judged" (Matt. 7:1). I know that this verse has been greatly misused and perverted in an effort to keep one from exercising any spiritual judgment. I know that we are to judge according to the principles of God's Word. I know that we are to judge a doctrine as to its truthfulness. I know that we are to judge a person's life in the exercise of church discipline. This verse does not do away with all judgment. There are things we are to judge.

I am sure there is one matter (among others) that we are not to judge. Salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is God. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died a substitutionary death and arose from the dead. That is the saving gospel of the Bible. When a person says that he believes this and is trusting Jesus Christ and His work for salvation, one should not say that person is unsaved. One should not add anything to faith in Jesus Christ for salvation. We should be mighty careful in saying that a person is not saved. Of course, if one denies the Bible being the Word of God, or denies that Jesus is God, or that He was born of a virgin, or died for sinners, or that Christ arose from the dead, that person is not saved. But when a person professes the Bible truth about the person and work of Christ, and says that he is trusting Christ and His work for salvation, we should not say that he is not saved. I have always been very, very slow and careful in saying of another person that he is not saved. I will say dogmatically, long and loud, that a person is wrong in his life and practice when that is contrary to the Bible. I will stand like a rock against the false doctrines one may hold. But when one professes the Bible truth about Jesus Christ and His work and says he is trusting that for salvation I will not say he is not saved.

In a recent publication, one of the writers used my name and quoted a verse of Scripture as applying to me which definitely showed that the writer was saying I was not saved. I later heard that the editor of this paper said that I was a reprobate. In fact, this article definitely placed me among the reprobate. Now a reprobate is one who is not, and never will be saved. Actually, we can never know a man is a reprobate until he dies without Christ and goes to hell. Any living man may, so far as we know, be one of God's elect, and yet be saved. We do not have any criterion to go by, nor any right to call any living man a reprobate. When we do this, we are disobeying Matthew 7:1 and rebelling against the Word of God. The man who wrote that I was a reprobate is guilty of this sin of wrongfully judging.

It is no wonder that, in this same publication, it was stated that no one but a Baptist would ever see the King in His glory. When men are such false teachers, such rebels against the Bible, so blinded to truth by their wicked heresies, it is no wonder they call another a reprobate. The man who says one who is not a Baptist is not saved is certainly not a Baptist himself. It has never, never, never been a Baptist doctrine that only Baptists are saved. True Baptists have always believed that any man who believes in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour is truly saved. Anyone who teaches that only Baptists are saved is not a true Baptist himself. He better thank God that what he is saying is a lie, for if true, it would make him to be unsaved, for that man is not a Baptist. So, I say to the man who wrote this article and who claims to be a Baptist, "Brother, if you are trusting Jesus Christ as your Saviour, you are saved, and I rejoice in this." But I further say to this one, "You are not, by any stretch of the imagination, a Baptist, for no Baptist will ever teach that only Baptists are saved." I further say to him, "Be sure, dear brother, that you are trusting Jesus Christ for salvation, and not your wearing of the 'Baptist' name. For many wear the 'Baptist' name who are lost, but all who trust Jesus Christ are saved."

I do praise God that, though this man has judged me (in his deliberate and wicked disobedience to Matt. 7:1) and placed me among the reprobate — I praise God that my eternal destiny is not in the hands (or the mouth or pen) of this one. Praise God that my destiny is in the hands of God. I know that I am saved by the glorious grace of God. I did not and do not deserve to be saved. I am not trusting in any works I ever have or ever will do. I am trusting in Jesus Christ and what He did for me. Therefore, I know I have everlasting life. Oh, praise God that man can not take away from me what God, in sovereign grace, has given to me.

Yes, despite the sinful, wicked and false judgment of this man, I am still saved. I do trust and hope that this one who has placed me among the reprobate is truly a saved brother in the Lord. I pray for him. I will say that, in spite of his many false teachings, if he is trusting Jesus Christ as Saviour, he is a saved brother in the Lord. It is wrong, and it is a shame for one to hold and teach as much false doctrine as this one does, but even this does not authorize one to say that he is not saved. Thank God that one who is right about Jesus Christ is saved, though that saved one might be wrong about many other things.

Praise God, I am still saved. This man's efforts and statements have not changed this. I have believed on Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Holy Spirit, using the gospel, gave me spiritual life; and in giving that life, gave me repentance and faith. I give God all the glory for my salvation, and I do deeply praise His name that, what God has given me, no man can take from me. Oh, dear brethren, I do most earnestly urge you to beware of adding anything to "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..." (Acts 16:31). God bless you all, including this one who has placed me among the reprobate.



QUESTION: — What treatment for the sick is recommended in the New Testament?

ANSWER: — Anointing with oil and praying, James 5:14, 15: "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up;..."

WHO

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about the spiritual death, poverty, and danger that covers my neighborhood like a thick cloud? Am I a good neighbor? Would I not be willing to visit and help a sick or needy neighbor? Why then, do I not carry the life giving gospel to my neighborhood?

Your place of employment is a part of the mission field. I do not advocate one neglecting to do an honest day's work. I do not advocate one letting his assigned daily job go undone in order to spend his time giving the gospel to his fellow employee. But is there not some free time on the job? Is there not lunch time and break time? Are you not with your fellow employees a few minutes before and after the day's work? Do you have no opportunity at all to speak a few words to him? Do you never mention the weather, politics, sports, etc., to him? Then why can you not, now and then, say a word to him concerning the glorious and saving gospel of Jesus Christ?

I could go on and on, but I hope that, by now, you see what I am driving at in this message. I am saying that everyone in the world is a part of the mission field. That each unsaved individual is, so to speak, a lost heathen in greatest need of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Bible makes absolutely no distinction of any kind in the matter of the need of individuals as to the gospel. Every individual is lost by nature. The gospel is essential to salvation. Every individual needs salvation, hence needs the gospel — one as much as another. I am saying — oh, that the Holy Spirit will make it effectual to your heart and mine — that every saved person is a God-called missionary, and that every unsaved person is a part of the mission field.

Are you saved? That is the first and most important of all questions. I give you the gospel. Jesus Christ is God Almighty. He was born of a virgin. He lived a sinlessly perfect life. He died on the cross for the sins of all those who will ever trust Him as their personal Lord and Saviour. He arose from the dead. If you realize your lost condition and need, and will repent of your sins and believe in Jesus Christ, you will be eternally saved. Are you saved?

If you are saved, you are called of God to be a missionary. In the providence of God, you are now on a part of the mission field. Are you being a good and faithful missionary to those on that part of the field to which God has, for the present, called

you? Or are you a poor, disobedient, unfaithful missionary? I do not ask you if you are a missionary, for I know you are. I ask you, what kind of missionary are you? And, oh, I ask myself the same question. Dear God, please move upon my own soul and cause me to be a better missionary than I have been heretofore!

Dear friend, you might be the only missionary someone has. Did you know that? God may — He often does — place you and someone else in such a relationship that you are the only missionary that person has, or maybe, will ever have. Doubtless, there is someone, there may be many, to whom you can be the best possible missionary. They might listen to you better than they would anyone else. They might have a love for you that God will use to cause them to listen more attentively and respectfully to your gospel witness than they would to anyone else. No doubt that there are some for whom you can do the best missionary work of any saved individual.

Dear saved friend, what are you doing as to your call to be a missionary? What are you doing on that part of the mission field that God, in His providence, has placed you? May the Holy Spirit be pleased to make this message effectual to many, especially to me! God bless you all!

BEWARE

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in prison for this horrible crime. (I think he received around 40 years for his deed. He was eligible for parole in a fourth of that time.)

Now this is one of the noble deeds that the anti-capital punishment folks argue for mercy for the poor little criminal!

There was a fellow and his wife who left New York in an old Pontiac coupe. They had three children with them. The husband, before leaving New York, stomped a woman to death and took her \$1 wedding ring. As he traveled towards Virginia, he and his wife ate in the front seat as their three children starved to death in the back seat. They left dead children in three different states. One thrown in the ditch along the roadside; another buried in a trash dump and finally, they entered the state of Virginia with the last of the three children. The child was crying for food in the back seat, while her mother and dad ate in the front seat. Soon they got tired of hearing the little child cry and they decided to stop and sleep for the night. They took the crying child and laid it on the ground beside the car and placed a mattress on top of the child. The two parents then lay down on the mattress and went to sleep for the night. Of course this ended the little child's life. The man and woman left the little child there along side the road under the mattress and proceeded on their journey. They were arrested in Virginia. The woman turned state's evidence and was given 20 years. The man was given 35 years in Virginia prison. I knew this man and he was highly respected at the state prison by most of the officials and inmates. I never cared for the man myself. Here is another case where the anti-capital punishment advocates ought to rejoice. Another murderer gets 35 years for starving his little children to death and then sleeping on the last of the lot to finish her life. (He seemed quite happy in

prison, by the way.)

I could give the readers a lengthy list of various cases, but I don't want to spend a lot of time boring you with the deeds of various criminals, nor do I desire to waste the spaces of the pages of TBE.

Now from my scripture text, let me point out that we have no right to take any satisfaction for the life of a murderer. God said "he shall be surely put to death." We have no business spending all sorts of time and money in trying to keep God's orders from being enforced.

Now, let's deal with my title for a while. BEWARE, CRIMINAL, Beware. A few years ago the state of Utah decided to execute Gary Gilmore. Prisoners on death row in Florida and Virginia and in other places started proclaiming that they wanted to die with Gary Gilmore. They took Gilmore out to shoot him one morning and the yelling out of all the various death row inmates was no longer heard about wanting to die with Gilmore. His execution shut the mouths of all the men who were begging to die with him. Will it deter crime? It sure did in that time. Nothing else was heard out of these criminals that seemed so anxious to die.

There are those who say that if a man guilty and convicted of a capital offense truly repents, he should eventually be released or allowed to spend the remainder of his life in prison. Now, dear reader, I'm not a cold-blooded man, but I believe that those who try to take away the force of the Word of God regarding how one should be treated for a capital crime are seeking to undermine God.

If a man convicted of a capital offense and found guilty without a shadow of doubt was taken on to prison and executed, then the criminal would beware.

God has declared in His Word that those in authority beareth not the sword in vain (Romans 13:4). God has displayed several times in the past few years that He can still bring authorities to put to death those condemned thereunto. There was Gilmore, then Spinkilink, White, Steven Judy, and Evans. You better beware criminal; you better watch what you do; God may have a firing squad, a gas chamber, or an electric chair waiting for you. BEWARE! CRIMINAL, BEWARE!

People argue that Capital Punishment doesn't deter crime. I don't see where you get such an idea. I just won't believe that if a criminal knew that he would most certainly be put to death if he was convicted of a capital crime, that it would make him think long and hard before he committed an act that he knew would cost him his life. If the criminal had it embedded in his mind that the capital offender pays with his life, I believe it would cause the criminal to think long and hard before he killed, robbed and raped! If the criminal knew positively that if he was found guilty of a capital crime, that he would most definitely be taken and strapped in the electric chair, 1900 volts of electricity administered to him for 30 seconds, then if he still was alive, the 1900 volts administered again and, if necessary, a third time; he'd think long and hard over his deeds before he committed them. If he knew of a certainty that puffs of smoke would come from his burned body, flames bursting from his temples; I say without a shadow of a doubt, he would think long and hard

before he so boldly committed his terrible acts.

Well, criminal, you better beware, because God has displayed that He will still bring death unto those who have been sentenced there unto.

Civil Authorities have the right, being appointed of God, to execute capital offenders. Capital punishment is ordained of God and men have no right to try to set it aside. If God continues to display that criminals can and will still be executed in this day in which we live, then we'll see a lot less capital offenders.

So, as I close, let me once more say Beware! Criminal, Beware! for God may see to it that you suffer capital punishment if you commit a capital crime.

So, dear reader, it is our solemn duty to stand true to the Word of God and not lean to our sympathetic feelings. God's thoughts are far greater and so much higher than our thoughts. Shall not the God of the universe do right? He most certainly will! So God says, "Ye shall take NO SATISFACTION for the life of a murderer, which is guilty of death: but he shall be surely put to death."

May the Lord be pleased to ever bless us through His Word!

COMMISSION

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find the great commission located in St. Matthew Chapter 28; therefore, it applies to what is known as the church age, which is the time in which we are living. Some people believe that the church was started in the Old Testament times and carried thru until the present. However, this is untrue.

The Great Commission was given only to the New Testament Baptist Church which Jesus, Himself, built when He walked here upon the earth, as God-man among men. Therefore, I conclude along with thousands of others, that the church could not have been carried over from Old Testament time. The great commission was not given unto any so-called religious or non-religious group in existence today, it was given only to the church which Christ Himself built.

Some people feel that the great commission was given to them as individuals. However, this is untrue; therefore, they have no right to apply this unto themselves. This is done, of course, for a number of reasons: (1) ignorance of the Word of God, (2) their refusal to acknowledge the truth, and (3) they are afraid to stand up for God and His great truths. Many preachers know TRUTH, but are afraid they will lose their popularity and their pay check. I would rather be the peasant that I am than be afraid to preach truth. If everyone would accept God's Word as it is set forth in the Bible, there would only be one religion, and needless to say that would be the New Testament Baptist Church (Sovereign Grace Believers).

Any one can wear the name Baptist, but that does not necessarily make them one. However, every one does not accept God's Word as it is written, and that is where all of those so-called religious groups come from. The last account I had, there were over 1200 so-called religious groups in the world today, all assuming that the great commission was given to them, all going about the world doing

their own thing, and that, beloved, is what is wrong with the world today. (Too many people doing their own thing). If we must do something, why should we not do what God would have us do?

Now for the contents of St. Matthew 28; verses 19-20. There are three elements in this commission: First, we find that we are to make disciples. The phrase "teach, all nations" should have been translated "disciple all nations." But how are we to disciple all nations? Are we to make disciples from bread dough, then put them into the oven and bake them until they begin to squirm? No, not so. Do we make disciples by preaching church truth? No, not so. You can not take an unborn child and feed it solid food. Then how do we make disciples? We make disciples by the preaching of the gospel. What is the gospel? Some people believe that the word gospel means good news, and that is its meaning, they say the good news was that Christ was raised from the dead, and that was good news. However, beloved, there are two other elements that enter into the preaching of the gospel. They are (2) Christ's death, and (3) His burial, His resurrection could not have been possible had it not been for His death, and His burial. Therefore, we conclude that the Gospel is the death, burial, and the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ the Almighty.

So, first, we are to make disciples, by the preaching of the Gospel. Now I would like for you to notice that the gospel is not limited to certain groups of people or to certain places. St. Mark Chapter 16; verse 15 says:

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Some people believe that this applies only to the days when the apostles walked the earth.

But let us take a look at His promise. The promise of Christ is to the end of the age. This tells us of a continuation of the Commission to the end of the age, by which is meant the end of the present dispensation, which will come at the return of our Lord.

Secondly, I would like for you to notice that after disciples are made, then we are to baptize them. What is baptism? Who has the right to baptize? How is baptism administered? What does baptism do? Let us begin by answering the second question first. Who has the right to baptize? There are many theories on this subject, but we only have time for a few. (1) Some people believe that preachers have the right to baptize, because they have been called to preach. (2) Some people believe that all so-called religious groups have the right to baptize. The plain truth is, that neither preachers nor so-called religious groups have the right to baptize. The authority to baptize was only given to the New Testament Baptist Church that Christ built when He walked here upon the earth as God-MAN among men (St. Matthew 28:19-20). Preachers and other so-called religious groups (or man-made institutions) do baptize. But all of their efforts are in vain and void, simply because they have no right to do what they do. They have assumed the right to do what they do. But

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The Baptist Examiner Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

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

Please explain, "Thou shalt not kill" Exodus 20:13, and the repeated God-approved and even God-commanded killings in the Old Testament.

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Exodus 20:13: "Thou shalt not kill." I Samuel 15:3: "Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass."

These are not verses of contradiction; they must be interpreted along side of each other. There are no contradictions in the Bible. The God-appointed killings, do not do away with the sixth commandment. Let us look at the sixth commandment and then examine the God-approved killings.

I wish to take this opportunity to state my position relative to the ten commandments. I believe they are applicable for all time. We are not, and no one has ever been under them for the purpose of salvation, but we are under them as a rule of life. The heresy that we are not under these commandments in nothing more than a ploy of the devil to excuse ungodly living. To say we are not under these commandments, is to say we can break them (murder, adultery, theft, etc.), and it not be a sin. If you believe this you are lacking greatly in spiritual discernment. May God help us to live by these rules of life for His glory.

The sixth commandment deals with the act of murder. It does not mean that we are, under no circumstances to kill anyone or anything. God as the creator of life, is the only person who has the right to take a life. Man being created in the image of God, makes a strike at man, a strike at God. There are some things or killings this commandment is not meant for. First, it is not meant for the killing of animals. I do feel that the killing of animals, except for the purpose of food, protection, or as pests is a sin (Proverbs 12:20). To say this commandment forbids the killing of any animals is absurd. Secondly; this commandment does not forbid the killing of humans in the case of self-defense or defense of property (Exodus 22:2, 3). Thirdly, this commandment does not forbid killing in a lawful war. A defensive war and a war dictated by God is a lawful war. Surely, this is taught by example throughout the Bible. We find no example of Christ condemning the military during His earthly ministry. Fourthly, this commandment does not do away with capital punishment. I lose a lot of respect for a person who says he is a Christian and denies capital punishment. To deny capital punishment is to deny the Bible. Genesis 9:6 says "Whoso sheddeth man's

blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man." Deuteronomy 19:21 says: "And thine eye shall not pity; but life shall go for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot." Capital punishment certainly can not be disproved by this commandment.

Let us now, quickly notice some things that are included in this commandment. First, suicide is included in this commandment. Secondly; abortion is included in this commandment. There is no room for argument on this. Any person who allows and the person who performs this act of abortion are murderers. Thirdly; murder of any kind is included in this commandment. This includes premeditated or an act of passion. An accidental killing is not a murder, but, in the case of drunk driving, etc., my opinion is the charge should not be involuntary manslaughter, but murder. May the courts get these animals off the streets, so they are safe for law abiding citizens.

Let me deal briefly now with the "God-approved and commanded killings in the Old Testament." Read the following verses: Isaiah 64: 8, 45:9, 43:7, 46:10, 14:24, Proverbs 16:4, Romans 9:20, 17, 23, 24, 21, 22, and a host of other verses that teach us God does as He pleases and we are not to question His desires. I do feel it would help us to remember that these people God commanded Israel to kill, deserved death as we all do. They were an idolatrous people that hated God, and they received their just reward. We also must remember that all death, rather by killing, car wreck, cancer or anything else is determined and the time appointed by God. If you want to know if Israel was right in carrying out these killings, the answer is yes.

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Exodus 20:13, "Thou shalt not kill." Rather than "kill" the word "murder" better suits the text, for it is what the Hebrew word means. It is not merely a problem of semantics, for there is an infinite difference between divinely mandated killing, and satanically inspired murder. God has vested the morally sound governments of this earth with the authority to invoke the death penalty for capital crimes, and only a sentimentally blinded pacifist would misconstrue the execution of such a criminal, and charge the state with murder. Governments who do not exercise this God-given right and responsibility (Gen. 9:6), do so at their own peril, they sow to the wind, and shall reap the whirlwind. There are homicides which

are justifiable, and there are wars which are just and necessary. Pacifism arises from a malformed concept of Jesus. The pacifist says, "Jesus would never kill anybody, He loved His enemies, and commanded us to pray for them which despitefully use us." There is much truth in these words, but sadly, there is also much error. I know from personal experience that Jesus loved one of His enemies, and I know from divine precept that He does not love all of His enemies (Ps. 5:5, 11:5; Lk. 19:12-27; John 17:9). Is it not the same Jesus Who said, "I am meek and lowly," that comes warring with His army from heaven against the anti-Christ at Armageddon? Christ's Armageddon army is invincible, and slays the enemies of Christ so fast that their blood reaches up to the horses' bridle "by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs" (Rev. 14 & 19). "In righteousness He doth judge and make war" (Rev. 19:11).

It is not "Jesus the Pacifist," that sits on the "great white throne," and consigns His enemies to the eternal burnings. Nay, it is the just and holy Jesus, Who in righteous indignation sends those who war against free grace to a well deserved torment.

It is the responsibility of civil government to preserve its national honor, and to protect the rights and liberties of its citizens from either external or internal aggression. When our government declares war on a nation, which threatens the peace and prosperity of our country, every citizen should rally to defensive action, and the Christian man should say to his government, "Here am I. Send me."

We have our flag-waving rabble rousers who try to incite war out of a lust for blood. God's Word deals with them saying, "...Scatter thou the people that delight in war" (Ps. 68:30). Then there are some who instigate war out of a love for money or profit they would realize from the war (Ezek. 38:11-13). Of this particular kind of warmonger we read, they "...are gone down to hell with their weapons of war..." (Ezek. 32:27). Nations declare war in an effort to force their ideology or religion upon other nations. And there are many other unjust causes of war, and the victim nations not only have a right to defend themselves against such evil, but are responsible to do so.

There is hardly a price too great to pay this side of capitulation to counteract war, it is the "peacemaker" who is blessed, but after all measures taken to pacify the enemy has proven futile, the aggressor must be resisted, and that with as much force as can be mustered. Where would the world be today if Nazism had not been resisted on the battlefield? The answer is most frightening. Hitler's thirst for blood and power could not be appeased, and so it has been with many a tyrant in history, and so shall it be with the anti-Christ. He shall meet his

waterloo at Armageddon.

The world charges Israel, both ancient and contemporary Israel, with being a warmonger, but they never stop to realize that Jerusalem has been the most besieged city in the history of the world. God fought for ancient Israel, but that does not mean He approved of every war Israel had, and it is highly improbable that an individual involved in a just war can ever approve of everything his nation does, but that is no reason to be a draft dodger.

When Christ said, "Love your enemies" (Mt. 5:44), He was speaking to men as individuals, and not as nations. Many a Christian has gone to war devoid of hate for his enemy, and in some cases with a heart of love for his enemies and constant prayer on his lips for them, that they may be turned from their evil.

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The commandment, "Thou shalt not kill" (Ex. 20:21) is one of the ten commandments given by God to Moses. These commandments were given to show the people what God required for perfect obedience to Him. These commandments, including the one, "Thou shalt not kill," was for the individual to observe. This meant the individual was not to take matters into his own hand and kill another as Cain did his brother. We are told that the Hebrew word used here for "kill" is used forty-nine times in the Old Testament and in every instance means "to murder." The penalty for breaking this commandment was death (Ex. 21:12; Num. 35:16-21). Also, we see that under the laws given by God to Moses for governing of the nation of Israel, there were certain crimes that were to be punished by the death penalty. The elders (rulers) of Israel were to see that this penalty was executed on those who broke these laws, "And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones; that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear. And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree; —" (Deut. 21:19-23).

We see from this, that when the death penalty was carried out by the government on one who had committed a crime worthy of death, it was not murder, but an execution of the guilty one.

The nation of Israel was also commanded by God to destroy other nations who were their enemies as well as enemies of their God, "But thou shalt utterly destroy them; —" (Deut. 20:17). This was to be done lest their enemies would cause them to do evil, for we are told, "But thou shalt utterly destroy them; That they teach you not to do after all their abominations, which they have done unto their gods; so should ye sin against the Lord your God" (Deut. 20:17-18). This killing of their enemies as commanded by God is not a violation of the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill," but an execution of divine judgment.

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This is an interesting and oft asked question. Because of this commandment many have refused to bear arms in defense of their country or family. Are these people right in their position? Is it right to stand by and see your wife or child abused or beaten or killed and not protect them? Is it right to stand by and allow an enemy to come and destroy your country and your freedoms? How far should patriotism go? What about capital punishment?

While Exodus 20:13 tells us not to kill, Ecclesiastes 3:3 tells that there is "a time to kill." And the book of Deuteronomy in many places tells us that people guilty of all kinds of crimes are to be put to death. For example, Deuteronomy 13:9 says, "But thou shalt surely kill him; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people." King Saul was commanded to destroy all of Amalek in I Samuel 15:3.

What are we to learn of this? Exodus 20:13, one of the 10 commandments, is teaching us a very important lesson. The Hebrew word for kill here is different from the word used in the other passages we have discussed. It is "Ratsach" meaning to murder. We are not to deliberately murder a person for greed or hatred. When Solomon in Ecclesiastes said there was a time to kill, he was saying we must help protect our nation or our family. Crime or enemies must be stopped at all costs, even by killing if necessary. I do not believe that a man would be held guilty before God if he had to kill to protect his daughter from a rapist, for example. (I don't think he should be held guilty before a judge either.)

Is it right to be "a conscientious objector"? Absolutely not. It is a cop-out and the cowardly way out. There is absolutely no way a man can use the Bible to prove such a thing.

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there is no Bible for their assumption. Therefore, all of their so-called works are void as dung. Question number 3, what is baptism? Baptism is a symbol of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ Jesus. Romans Chapter 6, verses 3, 4, and 5 are very clear. It says: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death. Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection. Question number 4, How is baptism administered? First of all, you need a proper candidate, any male member who has been properly appointed by the church can baptize the candidate (ordained or not).

Beloved, if you have been

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poured, then you have not been baptized. If you have been sprinkled, then you have not been baptized. Even if you have been baptized by any other so-called church, other than a New Testament Baptist Church, then you have not been properly baptized. You have only gone thru the motions, simply because the one who baptized you, baptized you without proper authority; therefore, your baptism is void; it is meaningless. While baptism has nothing to do with the making of disciples, and has no saving power, yet it is commanded of our Lord: and is, therefore, very important. I would like to point out that the great commission forbids the baptizing of infants, unaccountable and material products. No one or material product is entitled to be baptized, unless he or she or it can be taught, and then he or she or it is not entitled to be baptized until he or she has been taught, and has received that teaching. (It is impossible to teach an 'it', referring only to material products, such as animals, like dogs and cats, etc.).

Question Number 5. What does baptism do? Many people think that baptism puts the finishings on salvation. Some people actually believe that they are saved by baptism. The plain truth is that neither of those two statements are true. If I believed that baptism saved people, I would get me a six foot baseball bat and in about three or four days I would have the entire state of West Virginia saved, whether they wanted to be or not, then I would start on the other 49 states. Why? Because of my desire to see the lost saved, but I know that no one is saved by baptism. Baptism is how one gains membership into the Lord's church. Acts chapter 2, verse 41 is very clear on the subject. It says:

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

First, they were saved, then they were baptized into the church.

Now, beloved, the third element I would like to point out is, that after disciples have been made, after they have been baptized correctly, our responsibility does not stop there, we must continue to teach them. We are not to teach them just a few parts of God's Word, but we are to teach them all that Christ has commanded. We are to declare unto them the whole council of God. After disciples have been made correctly, then comes church truth, the doctrines of grace, etc. Beloved, God has an order in which things are to be carried out, and you and I are to follow that order. How long are we to teach them? We are to teach them for as long as we live, or until the end of the age. Keep in mind that the church has the right to call another pastor at anytime if something should go wrong. Now after we as pastors are called away, the church is to call someone to take our place. Notice that the promise is, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world or age. Amen. Now this reveals unto us that Christ addressed the apostles, not as individuals, but as constituting the church. We know this because the apostles have long been deceased, and yet the end of the age has not come. Our Lord

therefore, was speaking to them as a body that would perpetuate itself to the end of the age. Based upon this evidence, the commission therefore, was committed to the church. The carrying out of it, then, is a church responsibility.

TOTAL

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ty, he is well on a road which will lead to sound theology. Also, it is equally true, that if one be incorrect upon this doctrine, he must be off on several other important facets regarding the salvation of God's elect.

When one truly believes man is totally depraved, he never would, nor could he ever, choose to come to Christ for cleansing from his sin, therefore, God must choose him (Election). Because of his inherited sinful nature, man will never do anything to warrant his election, hence it is unconditional. Now since God has unconditionally elected a people unto salvation, it only naturally follows that Jesus Christ need suffer only for these thus elected, and that those for whom He suffered must be pardoned. Then the ransomed elect of God must be brought to repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This work can only be accomplished by the irresistible grace of a sovereign God. Because it is so very true that we, as well as all the seed of the first Adam, "love darkness rather than light because our deeds were evil," the next step in our predestination to be conformed unto the image of the Son of God, is our perseverance. This shall be accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit, since we are still in this sin-ruined body of death. The old nature is still with us, and we have constant warfare that we must fight; which we shall win by the power of grace divine. God shall hold us on our way until the time "He presents us before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy" (Jude 24). Hereby we see that the Bible doctrine of salvation has a pillar in the truth of total depravity. Seeing, then, this is such an important doctrine, dare any preacher not study and rightly divide the Word of Truth upon this subject. Even so, it is sadly true that very few really believe this truth, and even fewer, that put it into practice in this ministry. May God bless these men to the opening of their understanding. For His glory I thus pray.

If we are to understand the depravity of man, we must depend upon the Word of God. For there, and there alone, can we find the truth of man's desires, loves, and actions. Since God formed man from the dust of the earth, and breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life, we may have assurance that God knows all about us, knowing that God's Word is a revelation of Himself, with a history of man from the beginning. We know the Word has a complete statement of man's nature.

Let us therefore look into the Word of Truth. There we shall find that, since the fall, every man born of Adam "goes astray as soon as they be born speaking lies" (Ps. 58:3). Hence we can safely say that all men are at birth sinners (save our Lord Jesus Christ); that each inherited a depraved nature, which is opposed to good and would, apart from divine intervention, continue in this condition until death.

This condition of man encompasses the total man. Notice

with me some Scriptures which show the true capabilities of the natural (outer) man. Romans 3:10-12: First, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seek after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." Please note this - that not only are the rapist, murderer, and drunkard included, but it is every son of Adam. Each one of us had the necessary qualification to fit any of these sins. Any man is capable of these things and more, apart from the restraint of God. Thanks be unto God, He is sovereign. If this were not true, what would have taken place upon the earth following the fall? I shudder to think of it. What an all-wise God we serve.

Now notice with me the actions of the depraved man. God likens their throat unto an open grave. What does this bring to mind? Stink, corruption, filth—surely these and a lot more. Yet, such is the throat of the unsaved man. Lies are a major use of his tongue, his lips cover a deadly poison. Surely this would be enough for us to see how cruel and wicked man really is. No one, it would seem, could argue with depravity now. But alas, the pride of man! He cannot face the truth without attempting to explain it away, and God knowing this to be the fact, continues His report on man's wicked ways. The mouth of man is full of cussing and bitterness. There is no room for anything else, that which is full cannot have anything added to it. We can see the evidence of this fact every day. It is not needful that we be long in the world till we hear the cursing, and the bitterness of a mere man against the Lord Himself. My, how this does display the depravity of man! That he would curse against the longsuffering and patience of a sovereign and gracious God.

God, then, in this text before us continues to show the deeds performed by the natural man. Look to the results of his movements upon the earth, "feet swift to shed blood." Surely we must all agree with this, look at world history. Again and again, wars have been fought with the blood shed swiftly. Then think of the Christian martyrs, who have been beheaded; sawn assunder; stoned; or slain with the sword — and tell me if man is not swift to shed blood. But even more than this, we can look at our daily newspapers and see the truth of this. Nor is this all — if we but look to the classified ads, we can find hired assassins. They go under the name of Doctor (beloved, if ever there was hypocrisy, this is it); who for the love of filthy lucre shed the blood of unborn children. This is feet that are swift to shed blood, they cannot even wait until they be born to murder. Maybe the saddest part of all this is the attitude of our society towards it. It is approved, or in some cases even encouraged, feet swift to shed blood. This certainly describes many of the people today. We who are saved can see these things and know them to be true. So it is no wonder to us that "destruction and misery are in their ways and the way of peace have they not known." Seeing there is no fear of God before their eyes, in light of what they have done; we are persuaded they must be depraved. Their actions

themselves prove to us that "there is no fear of God before their eyes."

HAVING LOOKED SOME AT THE OUTER MAN, let us proceed and now consider the inner man. The inner man is also totally depraved. Consider with me the mind. Adam, before the fall had a very great mind, he gave names to all the animals which God had created. But now, even the very best of minds do not even know the names of all the animals. Can you believe scientists (so-called) want us to believe that we are improving each generation, and have evolved from some form of lower life. We are not improving; the morals of today are lower than when I was a teenager, and many things are just the same way. Well, what "thus saith the Lord" about the mind of man. Their "understanding is darkened" and Titus 1:15, "even their mind and conscience is defiled."

As we proceed, let us next consider the heart of man while in an unsaved condition. God says in Jeremiah 17:9, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" God here states that the wicked and deceptive heart is even worse than the tongue. Maybe much of the reason is that "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." What is the abundance of the unregenerate heart? Matthew 15:19, "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies." Can we not begin to see the true depravity of man. Be assured God has not overstated the case, He knows full well the condition.

God sets man not only as aforestated, He also reveals unto us that we were spiritually dead. Ephesians 2:1, "And you hath he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins." Man since the fall, has been dead toward God and the things of God. Adam, before the fall was in fellowship with God, living in a state of uprightness. He had a holiness which was approved of God, for God said of everything which He had made "it was very good." This holiness of Adam's was mutable, and when he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he died. This had been the warning of God, and it surely came to pass. Now we realize from history that Adam did not die physically that day. Yet God had said "in the day thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die," so Adam died. He died a spiritual death. His holiness, uprightness, and fellowship with God were gone. When Adam and Eve heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the Garden in the cool of the day, they hid themselves. Instead of the fellowship Adam and Eve had enjoyed with God, now there was fear.

As a result of the spiritual death of Adam, all men born of his seed are born spiritually dead. Thereunto the Bible states "that which is born of flesh is flesh." Every man is spiritually dead, void of spiritual life, this is not just a play on words. God has a complete understanding of what dead means. Remember, the Devil in the Garden of Eden used the same plan of attack, that many use today, causing men to question the Word of God. The serpent said unto Eve, "Surely God hath not said in the day thou eatest thereof

thou shalt surely die." However, He had said, and it was carried out. Do not allow Satan to cause you to doubt this Word, by softening its meaning. I feel we must compare this unto the physical death, that we may better understand. If one is dead physically, we realize he is void of physical life. As a corpse is dead and totally void of natural life, he is unable to raise himself or aid in his being quickened from the dead. Even in the Biblical accounts of ones being raised from the dead, the corpse had absolutely no part. Therefore, let us compare spiritual things with spiritual things, and look at the spiritually dead. Again, dead still means void of life, in this instance we speak of spiritual death, void of spiritual life. Just as the physical corpse is unable either to quicken or to aid in his quickening, so is the spiritual corpse.

What does all this mean? For one thing it means that the "Freewill Theology" is just not true. The freewill says such like: "God has done all he can, now it is up to you" "you do your part and God will do His" or "open your heart's door and let Jesus in, He is pleading with you, weeping for your decision." My friends, what has any such like to do with the High and Holy One? Can we find this in the Bible? Whom do men think Christ is? Can a man who is dead do anything? Salvation is not any physical coming to the front of a building. Being saved is being "born again of the Spirit of God by the Word," it is being quickened from spiritual death. it is being made, not making oneself, a new creation. And I ask you, if a physically dead man can do physical things, then, why do you think a spiritually dead man can do spiritual things? This is really the dividing line upon believing or not believing total depravity. Do you believe it? Then, if so, practice it, and if not, why not?

Let us summarize man's condition: he is sinful, in love with darkness, and has no will nor means to change. The total man is infected with depravity; we see his outward actions are evil, his heart is filled with sin and his mind defiled. But even more than that, he is spiritually dead, he cannot change himself. Jeremiah 13:23, "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to doing evil."

Surely man in this condition cannot please God, yet he must stand before Him who charges His angels with folly, before whose eyes the heavens are not clean. Before Him unto Whom all things are naked and open, we must stand. How will it be with you? What of your sin against a thrice Holy God?

If you shudder before this thought, I have good news. There is a way provided that your sins may be forgiven, that your filthiness can be made whiter than snow. Also, there is a cure for spiritual death. It is not what many Freewillers tell you, it is not your decision, nor signing a pledge card, nor walking to the front, nor turning over a new leaf and trying to live right. My friend, do not be deceived. One could do all these things, die in sin and go to hell.

The cure of which I speak is a sacrifice that God provided, Himself. One that was sufficient.

TOTAL

(Continued from Page 5)

cient, and satisfactory to God the Father. This could only be the "only begotten Son of God." Who for the suffering of death was made a little lower than the angels. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of a virgin, He came forth in the form of a servant, and lived a sinless life upon this earth. Then upon a tree, He was made a curse for me; for all the elect of God. There, hanging between heaven and earth, He was made to be sin who knew no sin, that we may be made the righteousness of God in Him. There, nailed to the tree, He shed His precious blood, for the redemption of His people.

Then, this is also the cure for spiritual death, the gospel of the Lord Jesus is Christ the power of God unto salvation. We can, by the quickening of the Holy Spirit with the Word of truth, stand before God "justified." Behold what love! to stand before God robed in the righteousness of Christ, just as if we had never sinned.

Now, dear readers, I ask you, do the fundamentalists of today present man as totally depraved? Do they let man know that salvation is of the Lord? Or do they leave it as if it were all up to man. To do so, squarely denies total depravity. Why do they claim to hold the truth, and in works deny it? Let us pray for them, for such were some of us in days gone by. Our God is able to show them the truth and give them backbone to stand for it. May God add His blessing to this and be with you all!

GRACE

(Continued from Page 1)

plan failed, the two boys died in Moab.

It is always that way. Whatever you are trying to preserve by backsliding will be destroyed by it. It could be a marriage. It could be a career. It could be financial. It could be children. How many like Naomi have gone to Moab and learned this bitter truth? The best way to preserve something is to put the Lord first. They fled because of famine in order to preserve their lives. Out of this family of four, three of them lost their lives in Moab. Listen:

"And Elimelech Naomi's husband died..." (Ruth 1:3). "And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband" (Ruth 1:5). Surely Naomi could have suffered no worse in the famine. Three Israelites are now buried in the heathen land of Moab. Many a child of God could tell of what they have buried in the land of Moab. Many can sympathize with Naomi because they too have been there.

God's sheep are prone to wander. Be careful of rash moves especially due to circumstances beyond your control. Be careful of fear. Be careful of trying to preserve something at all costs. Be careful to put God first in every area of life. Know your weakness — that sheep are prone to wander. There are some pitfalls for sheep to beware of. There are some thoughts that lead away from the Lord.

I. "Looking Only To Usefulness. Many have departed from the truth in order to be useful. We are to look to righteousness not usefulness.

Had Moses looked to usefulness, he would never have refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. After all, was he not in a position to help and influence multitudes? Certainly to be identified with slaves would not be a useful position.

Though we all desire to be useful, we are poor judges of what is useful. We must look to righteousness and do what is right in spite of what is useful. Most faithful preachers could preach to overflowing crowds if usefulness was the only consideration. Do not seek a position of usefulness, seek a position of righteousness, then usefulness will follow. Naomi and her family may have felt that they could be useful in Moab.

2. Looking To the Sovereignty of God Without Considering Our Responsibility. Some would say the door was opened by God's Sovereignty, therefore it is God's Will. Suppose Moses reasoned like that with respect to being called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. Could he not say that Providence had given him his position, that it was God's Will that he should be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter? Since it was all brought about by the Providence of God, should he not keep his position and use it for the benefit of God's people? The truth is that Providence had brought this trial of faith so that out of responsibility he might refuse it to the glory of God. Listen: "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter" (Hebrews 11:24). David had a similar experience. King Saul had tried to kill him on many occasions. King Saul and his army were camped, they were on a military expedition to destroy David and his followers. The Lord had caused a sleep to fall on them. As they lay sleeping, David and Abishai walked through the camp. Suddenly, at their feet lay King Saul sound asleep. The Sovereignty of God had delivered King Saul into David's hand. Should he not kill him, after all, he was already anointed to be the next king? All the warfare would then be over, they could all go home and live in peace. Many lives would be saved. Was this Providence's way of solving the problem? Abishai thought it was the answer, listen: "Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him..." (I Samuel 26:8).

Abishai was wrong. He looked only at the Sovereignty of God without considering the responsibility of David. It proved that the Sovereignty of God had brought a trial of David's faith. Had David executed Saul, he would have violated the Word of God. Listen to his answer to Abishai: "The Lord forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the Lord's anointed..." (I Samuel 26:11). Naomi and her family may have reasoned that since they had an opportunity to go to Moab, it must be right. To look only at the Sovereignty of God without respect to His Word and our responsibility will lead us astray.

II. Sheep Astray Do Not Know How To Come Back

Naomi did not know how to come back to God and His people. The way back is simply to return. The backslider does not know how to return because

he is generally held in a vise-like grip of circumstances. I am sure she realized what a sad place Moab was. Fellowship had been lost. The truths of the Word of God were not proclaimed in Moab. The sacrifices that portrayed the Lord Jesus Christ as her only hope for heaven were not practiced in Moab. Yet God, in mercy, had limited how far she could go. For example, she was restrained from going to Egypt. Even though you may be backslidden, God has put a limit on your folly. Listen: "He hath fenced up my way that I cannot pass..." (Job 19:8). God puts a restraint on His own. Naomi, like you, should at once return but, like you, she does not know how. You thought it would only be a short stay in Moab. Like Naomi, you found it to be a long stay. Her stay in the land of rebellion lasted ten years, listen: "...they dwelled there about ten years" (Ruth 1:4).

Why such a long stay under miserable conditions? Perhaps her husband Elimelech had a good job and was reluctant to leave. Perhaps the health of the two sons had gotten worse and the long journey back would be too much for them. The two boys had taken wives and now there were family ties in Moab. Every time Naomi's heart longed to go back, the grip of circumstances just choked the desire out of her. No doubt Naomi thought of those happy days when she lived among God's people. Her name means pleasant. She was such a pleasant person in those days. How she must have longed to once again hear the truths of God's Word. As she looked at her circumstances, there was just no way out. The chains that held Naomi to Moab were just as real as if they had been physical chains of steel. It is generally so with the backslider. Though she did not deserve to be delivered, yet God in mercy and grace, did deliver her, which brings us to our next point.

III. It Was God That Brought Her Back

The barriers that hindered her coming back were removed by God. God's measures may seem harsh. Desperate circumstances require desperate measures. God removed her husband and later He removed her two sons. Bitterness may have gripped her but she knew it was the Lord, listen: "...the hand of the Lord is gone out against me" (Ruth 1:13). "...the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me" (Ruth 1:20). "I went out full, and the Lord hath brought me home again empty..." (Ruth 1:21). The Lord emptied Naomi of all earthly ties. She was emptied of ambitions and dreams. She was emptied of self. Do you see Naomi now? All her dreams and hopes crushed, all alone in a heathen land, empty of all affection and desire, numbed by her losses.

It was then at God's appointed time that He sent His Word to Naomi, listen: "...she had heard in the country of Moab how that the Lord had visited his people in giving them bread" (Ruth 1:6). It was a Word that came in the Power of the Holy Spirit for we read of its results, listen: "Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was..." (Ruth 1:7).

Beloved, must God empty you in order to bring you back? Must the graves fill the hillsides of Moab before you return to the Lord and His people?

There is now no power in heaven or earth that can stop

Naomi from returning. She will make the long journey alone if necessary, not fearing for life or limb, for return she must. No more will she sit at home thinking of going back, now she will act. She will return or die trying. She will now go. So it is when God works in the hearts of His erring children. Divine Grace will restore the backslider since no other power can do it.

IV. When Naomi Returned, She Received More Than She Had Lost Through The Years of Backsliding.

When the erring child of God returns, they find God's Grace greater than they imagined. Naomi had left her friends to go to Moab. She may have thought that they would not receive her back. She had in a sense let them down, leaving them to endure the famine, while she would seek to escape it. Backsliders are often leary of how they will be welcomed back. After all, they have let the people of God down. Like Naomi, they are scared of the reception they will receive.

There is no need to fear. God will give you more friends than before and all the people of God will rejoice to have you back. Listen to Naomi's reception:

"...when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them" (Ruth 1:19).

The whole city welcomed back Naomi — a hero's welcome. Never had Naomi seen so many caring friends. God gave her more than she had lost through the years of backsliding. Naomi, during her stay in Moab, had witnessed about her Saviour. God had saved her daughter-in-law, Ruth. There was a genuine bond between the two. Ruth was all that Naomi brought out of Moab. She had lost a husband, two sons and a daughter-in-law. In Ruth, God gave Naomi more than she had lost. Listen to how it is put in the Word of God:

"...for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons..." (Ruth 4:15).

Not only did she have that which was better than seven sons, but she was also given a grandson. Listen: "And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it" (Ruth 4:16). Child of God, if you return to the Lord, He will give you more than you lost in the years of sin. This is all by the matchless Grace of God.

Even the dishonor of living in Moab was replaced by honor when God brought Naomi home again. You understand now, Naomi would be honored by having her name written in the Bible. Her testimony of being restored by Divine Grace is recorded for all to see. God is magnified for His faithfulness in bringing home this trophy of grace. God did what no one else could do, He brought Naomi home again. When Naomi returned, she gained back her old friends plus many new ones. She was welcomed home by the entire city. She had a saved daughter-in-law that was better to her than seven sons and she had a grandson to raise. She left a testimony for all time of God's Restoring Grace. She had received far more than she had lost in Moab.

V. God Was On The Throne While Naomi Was Backsliding

Human responsibility and Divine Sovereignty are laid down side by side in Scripture. To preach one and not the other is to preach only half a Bible. We must often cry out, "Lord, I

have made a mess of everything. All is in ruins." Against the background of failure, sins and lives that fall short, stands the promise that only a Sovereign God can make. Listen: "...all things work together for good to them that love God..." (Romans 8:28).

God is not the author of sin. God in no way condones sin, yet He is Lord of every event. He was on the throne while Naomi was backsliding. He was doing what the Scripture says He does. Listen: "...who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will" (Ephesians 1:11).

We see God reigning over the life of Naomi in several ways.

1. The Conversion of Ruth. The footsteps of Ruth were predestinated to cross the path of Naomi. She would be saved and later marry Boaz. If this had not happened there would have been no David, no Solomon and no lineage of Christ. The Royal line comes through Ruth and Boaz. No one's conversion is ever by accident. God has saved each of us on purpose. It is clear in Ruth's case that she was saved on purpose according to plans that were laid before the foundation of the world. Though Naomi had made a shamble of her life, God was on the throne. Ruth was saved and the Royal line was established after that she married Boaz. We see the absolute rule of God over every aspect of Naomi's life.

2. God Prepared A Safe Place For David's Parents to Go So That King Saul Could Not Harm Them.

Listen: "And David went thence to Mizpeh of Moab; and he said unto the king of Moab, Let my father and my mother, I pray thee, come forth, and be with you, till I know what God will do for me" (I Samuel 22:3). Ruth was David's father's grandmother. No doubt they had relatives in Moab. It would be an ideal hiding place. King Saul would have taken reprisals against David's family. His father and mother needed a safe place. I believe God prepared this safe place for them in the days of Ruth and Naomi. Even in her backsliding, Naomi's life would be made to glorify God. The events in her life would be made to work out for the good of God's people. David's mother and father would have an asylum in Moab. Even the very details of our life were worked out before we were born. You may not understand Divine Sovereignty and human responsibility, but you are to believe them both. It is a matter of faith.

We see Divine Sovereignty in the words: "...the Lord hath brought me home again" (Ruth 1:21), and we see human responsibility in the words: "Naomi returned..." (Ruth 1:22). It is my prayer that God in His Sovereignty would use this message to bring you home again.

VI. Let Me Give You A Warning. Some that leave the Lord never return. They never had a genuine conversion. Listen: "But is is happened unto them according to the truth of proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire" (II Peter 2:22). May you not be a hopeless case like those mentioned in this verse. The dog and the sow do what is their nature to do. God's people are never referred to in Scripture as dogs.

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GRACE

(Continued from Page 6)

and sows, but as sheep. May you be found having a genuine conversion and trusting in the crucified Saviour that rose from the dead. Listen: "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). May God bless you all!

COMMANDMENT

(Continued from Page 1)

damnation of someone or something.

We swear when we use the terms "by God" or "by Jesus." The Jews were in the habit of declaring oaths. Christ told them, "Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne; nor by the earth: for it is his footstool; neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou carest not make one hair white or black" (Matthew 5:34-36).

A Christian ought to have a reputation for honesty. He needs not to swear for he does not lie or make false statements. His communication is "Yea, Yea; Nay, nay; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil" (Matthew 5:37). Men will or ought to take Him at His word. An honest truthful man does not need to swear.

Cursing is asking God's wrath to fall upon something. When we curse we are, first of all, assuming we have power either over God or the same power as God. Is God ours to command that we may tell Him what to damn to eternal punishment? When we send someone to hell with our tongue we are taking upon ourselves a right to execute wrath. Wrath is something which belongs only to God. "Vengeance is mine; I will repay saith the Lord" (Romans 12:19). Men must think very little of the terrors of hell or have very mean spirits when they ask God every day or several times a day to condemn either someone or something to that awful place of darkness, where the fire burns red hot and the unsatisfied worm crawls in and out.

We also take the Lord's name in vain when we make light or frivolous use of it. Mockery is only one step removed from jesting. Men ought to be careful in joking about the things of God.

English is a marvelous language. Pick up a dictionary and just glance through it. There are words for any occasion. Words which clearly define our very thoughts and intents. Words which describe any event or action. With this overabundant language at our disposal, is it necessary to choose words which demean ourselves and mock God? An intelligent person does not have to use the language of the gutter to make himself heard. For every word of profanity or blasphemy a person utters, there are ten or twenty words which would be just as adequate without having to resort to improper language.

Swearing and cursing are bad habits. Like all habits, both good and bad, once established they are very hard to break. They can be broken only by the grace of God and your determination to quit those things which are displeasing to God. "If any man among you seem to be religious and bridled not his tongue, but deceiveth

his own heart, this man's religion is vain" (James 1:26).

EMPIRE

"Empire" is a Baptist fact and a Baptist claim. "Empire," is defined as, "that thing which Baptists build when their egos outrun their sense of servility." It is further defined as, "a lust for power."

"But Jesus called them unto him, and said. Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you; but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister" (Matthew 20:25-26). It shall not be so among you.

Many Baptists have superior abilities, and when channeled into godly purposes they are a blessing. When channeled into personal "empires" they are a blain. An "empire" necessitates an emperor, and we have some. Baptists have no pope, but we do have some folks with papal manners and habits.

Baptist entanglement with "empires" has an ancient origin. The Roman Catholic Church was formed from renegade Baptists. It was built from Baptist churches gone bad, which sought a centralized hierarchy, even as Israel had sought a king in former days. The only churches in existence when the Roman hierarchy was formed were independent Baptist churches. Some went bad (to Rome), while some stayed faithful, (usually unto death). Why is it that we learn so little from past epochs and ancient follies? We have hierarchies formed and forming among the Baptists, which are as evil in design as the Roman squalor.

We are not overly much persecuted by the Romanists or Protestants today. They are a threat which can never be ignored, but they are largely restrained in this day. Our current difficulties spring not from without, but from within. We are in peril from Baptists with a mania to rule; to build personal "empires" and to defend these empires with weapons which are not gentle. They are not truly arrogant men, for a truly arrogant man cannot conceive of a cause greater than himself. But, we have some who are heavily tinged by arrogance; who have the lust of empire on their tongue, in their face and in their fellowship. Those who praise the "empire" are praised in turn. Those, like me, who would mildly say "nay," are cast out and the casting is not gentle. Only Christ's church has legitimate authority to act corporately in spiritual matters. Any group, within the church or without, which formulates decisions and directives in spiritual matters, is an "empire."

Baptist "empires" usually involve Baptist preachers at one stage or another of their development. Political power is defined as, "the right to make the rules." When Baptist preachers have more interest in "making the rules" than in ministering the Word, you will have an "empire" develop sooner or later.

Allow me to state the antithesis to all empires of men. All power is within Almighty

The Bible Says...

"The Lord is good; his steadfast love endures for ever, and his faithfulness to all generations" (Psalm 100:5).

Obedience is for the present tense.

God. God in His sovereignty has been pleased to convey certain specified powers to His church to enable her to fulfill her spiritual assignments. When any person, or any group arrogates to themselves either the power of God or the power vested in the church, this is an "empire" of man. (If you wish to identify the empire simply look for the "emperor," for you will always find at least one).

WHY I LIKE TBE

by C. Rita Brown
Baltimore, Md.

Praise be to God for The Baptist Examiner! May all the Glory be unto our Great God, for the work and efforts put into the publishing and distributing of this Biblical, Christian paper. Shortly after being saved, by the Grace of God, I was introduced to T.B.E. by Brother Alfred Pruitt and his wife Ruth. My introduction to T.B.E. came after I'd read through the entire Word of God a couple times and has been in agreement with what God has revealed to me through His Word. Brother and Sister Pruitt and The Baptist Examiner have truly helped me grow in Grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. That is only two reasons why I like T.B.E. It teaches what I believe!

I remember one of the times that I visited a Baptist Church in West Virginia. As you go in, on the left there are some shelves and on the shelves I noticed a stack of papers. They turned out to be T.B.E.'s. I'd already read some of The Baptist Examiners that I'd gotten from Brother and Sister Pruitt, so I knew they would be good reading material. Well, I very happily went through that stack of T.B.E.'s picking out 2 or 3 copies of each different paper, to bring back to Baltimore to read and give out to others here. Then after church, at the Pruitt's home, Ruth got out their back copies of T.B.E. She said, "take what you want," I did. I had a large stack of them and could hardly wait to get home to start in reading them. I just Praise God for all that T.B.E. has made clear for me and for all those who make it possible, and for those who introduced me to it. I pray for you all, always.

T.B.E. has helped me to see more clearly, why I believe, what I believe. It teaches what God's Word teaches, namely, A Sovereign God, Sovereign Grace, Unconditional Election, Total Depravity, Limited Atonement, Irresistible Grace, God's Preservation of and Perseverance of the Saints. It is also Pretribulational and Premillennial. I have enjoyed T.B.E. for many years now and the Lord willing I shall continue to do so.

Just recently I had the opportunity to get to Ashland, Kentucky and to visit with the Brothers and Sisters at Calvary Baptist Church. That's when I realized why T.B.E. was such a good paper for the reading of the things of God. Calvary Baptist Church is truly a sound, true, Landmark, Missionary Baptist Church. I feel that anything produced by a Church like Calvary Baptist Church just has to be good to read, since they practice what they preach, and they preach the whole Word of God.

APPRECIATED LETTERS

Dear Brother Wilson,

Please renew my subscription to T.B.E. I do not want to miss a single issue. It is the greatest paper on earth today. I am on a fixed income and do not have much, but am sending an offering to be used in the greatest mission work on earth — New Guinea Missions. Calvary Baptist Church is really blessed in that the Lord chose them to sponsor the greatest paper and the greatest missionary of today. May the Lord continue to bless you.

Yours in the Lord,
Edgar Estes,
Memphis, Tenn.

Enclosed is a renewal subscription to your wonderful paper. I would not enjoy being without it. Your ministry through the Examiner is so well rounded and Biblical. I receive many blessings from each issue. Keep up the good work and may our Lord bless your every effort.

By His marvellous grace,
Gomer Hall,
Pennington Gap, Va.

Dear Brother Wilson,

May I say that my wife and I enjoy the Baptist Examiner and have received it for many years... It has taught us the great truths of God's Word since we were saved, and now continues to be a source of great strength to us... We agree with you in saying that Brother Halliman is truly a great man of God, and we appreciate him and his ministry greatly... Enclosed is a check for... and a list of new subscriptions for TBE. This is a personal ministry for us and we want to send you something each month as we are able... Keep standing firm for God's truths no matter what.

George Spangler, Jr.
Matthews, N.C.

Dear Pastor Wilson,

I live in Weston, W. Va... I am an avid reader of The Baptist Examiner. I enjoy every word and believe the truths it teaches... I hope the Lord will bless you with strength and health for many more years to continue in His work.

Sincerely yours,
Jacob Struck

ANNOUNCEMENT

Elder David Fletcher has accepted a call to pastor the Northside Baptist Church of Paducah, Ky. Elder Fletcher, and the church, invite you to attend any or all of their services. Pray for Elder Fletcher and this church.

Calvary Baptist Church of Hagerstown, Md. will have a Thanksgiving Bible Conference, Nov. 23-24, God willing. This church is pastored by Elder Ron Boswell. Scheduled speakers are Ron Boswell, Peter Halliman, Owen Croy, Don Pennington, Kenneth Leonard, Dan Phillips, Dean Elzy, and this editor. It is hoped that many will plan to attend this conference.

The Salem Baptist Church of Willow Hill, Ill. pastored by Elder Mike Channell makes the following announcement: This church is sponsoring and authorizing a mission in Effingham, Ill. Brother Irving Cummins has been authorized

Missionary To New Guinea Eld. Fred T. Halliman



FRED T. HALLIMAN

Send your offerings for the support of Brother Fred T. Halliman to:
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c/o Calvary Baptist Church
P.O. Box 71
Ashland, Kentucky, 41105-0071

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.

to oversee this mission work. The mission will be known as Salem Baptist Mission. Brother Cummins will be moving on the field by the last of August. Pray for this work.

Brother Chester Powell has announced his call to the ministry. He is a member of the Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Warren, Ohio, pastored by Don Pennington. Brother Pennington recommends this brother. Brother Powell will be available for services wherever the Lord opens the door. Pray for him. His address is 7177 Hayes Orangeville, N.E., Burghill, Ohio, 44404.

Elder Herbert Cade is available for preaching or pastoring wherever the Lord

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
OCTOBER 8, 1983
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TUNE IN TO THE CALL TO CALVARY

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ANNOUNCEMENT

(Continued from Page 7)

may open the door. He believes and preaches the truths taught in this paper. His address is Rt. 1, Box 690, Mansfield, La., 71052. His phone number is 318-872-5418. Pray for this brother.

James Walters has accepted a call to pastor the Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Mansfield, Ohio. This church was formerly pastored by Elder Oscar Mink. Brother Walters has assumed his duties at the church and will be ordained in the near future. Pray much for Brother Walters. He and the church invite you to attend their services.

Elder Mike King has accepted a call to pastor the Myrtle Tree Baptist Church of Grayson, Ky. The church has Sunday Morning and Evening Services, and hopes to soon begin Thursday night services. The pastor is now living on the field. The church is located on Route 3, Grayson, Ky., 41113. The Carl Connelly family live at Box 454 on this route and could be contacted relative to services. Elder King will soon have a permanent address on this route. Pray for Elder King and this church.

BOOK REVIEW

We have two books for sale in our book store by W. Leon Tucker. These are paperback books of over one hundred pages each. They sell for \$3.95 each. Do not forget that we give twenty percent discount to preachers and churches. These books are **STUDIES IN ROMANS** and **STUDIES IN EPHESIANS**.

The Bible student will immediately realize that these are two of the most precious and important books in the Bible. Any material that will at all help one in understanding these two books is a valuable addition to one's library. These two books will be found helpful for a general knowledge and acquaintance with these books.

These books are too small to even pretend to be great and full commentaries on the Bible books covered. They cannot compare with the great commentaries thereon. But they will be of help in getting started in a study of the said Bible books.

The author, Mr. Tucker, does not know church truth. He does seem to have some acquaintance with the doctrines of Grace. His outline and general approach to the books is good. I think highly of his dealing with chapters 9-11 of Romans. I recommend the books as simple books giving one a start towards the study of the Bible books covered.

These books may be ordered from our bookstore, and remember, the profit goes into the ministry.

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FELLOWSHIP

"Fellowship" is that bond of common things we find with the "fellows" of Christ because of the common bond with Jesus our Lord. The sinner surrounds himself with friends and causes, power and wealth, but ultimately he must be ALONE. Alone to face the judgment; when all his acquisitions shall be stripped away, and only he shall remain before God's wrath... ALONE. But, the child of God is blessed beyond measure, because whatever befalls him, **ULTIMATELY HE CAN NEVER BE ALONE**. Whatever travails beset us, whatever terrors come, whatever pains we suffer, whatever friends betray us, whatever our own weaknesses, **ULTIMATELY WE CAN NEVER BE ALONE**. If the fumes of hell could rise before us and Satan himself attack us, yet, we can never be ALONE. We are loved; and being loved, we love the "fellows" of Christ.

We love the "household of faith," as Paul speaks of it. We would do good to all men were we able, but first we consider the welfare of the household of God. Here we find kindred spirits and a commonality of thought and understanding. **ABOVE EVERYTHING, WE FIND UNDERSTANDING**. When I was a Psychology major, a common cry I heard was, "no one understands me." I can plead this in part. "No one understands ME... except another Sovereign Grace Baptist."

My mother doesn't understand me, nor does my father. My neighbors don't understand me. They think me strange when I speak "anti-christmas" and "pro-election," and indeed it is a strange tongue to them. Religionists of every stripe don't understand me. The Baptists in this Florida county don't understand me. They talk a common tongue with "free will" as the base and manipulation as the means. No one understands me in this waste-howling wilderness except those few souls who see God as He is... Sovereign.

This is why I will drive more miles than most for FELLOWSHIP. I don't insist that my brethren like me, only that they receive me. When I am with a saint who sees God as He is, I am on shouting ground, and also, building ground. There are divers views of prophecy, history and sundry things. Yet, if a brother sees God as He is, there is room and place to build and there is room and place for fellowship.

A saint who sees God as He is can be taught. He may be stubborn, who among us isn't? He may be stupid, who among us isn't? He may cling tenaciously to some curious doctrines, who among us hasn't? Yet, if he sees God as He is, he has a blessing wherewith to bless me; and I need the people of God so desperately that I claim that blessing for my own.

The mere act of fellowship is an inherent teaching ministry, for seeds are sown in fellowship which God, peradventure, might bless. I find it difficult to teach a person to whom I will not speak.

We cannot and shall not fellowship with the prince of darkness or his works. False doctrine is abhorrent to us. It sickens us... and should... and ever shall. We shall not give it place or praise. We shall interdict it at every corner and on every housetop. Yet, within a child of God who sees God as He is, there is a beauty and a bounty, which I must treasure. I might not like his phraseology, his hagiology, his epistemology or some idiosyncratic books he reads. Yet, he can aid me by his presence and comradeship and by the FELLOWSHIP that is due one saint from another. And peradventure, just peradventure, I might bless him, for fellowship carries a particular balm and gentle healing that touches more deeply than we sometimes know.

BECOME A BAPTIST!

Why not? Jesus did! Peter did! Paul did! And I did! We had no need to be saved at the time of our immersion (baptism) in water because our everlasting relationship with God, the Father, was already assured.

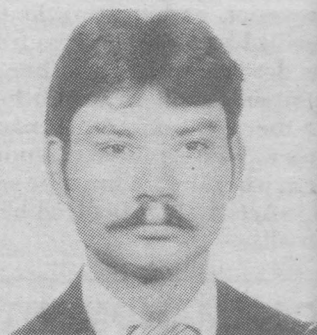
We were immersed (baptized) in water to show forth in glorious symbol the death, burial and resurrection. Jesus — the sinless Son of God — in His immersion (baptism) prophesied the work He would do in order to consummate the way of salvation for sinners. On this momentous occasion, God the Father and God the Holy Spirit joined God the Son in confirming His call and ministry.

The Apostle Peter — a saved sinner — followed in simple obedience and in agreement with the prophecy. The Apostle Paul, by his immersion (baptism) in water, recalled the work of salvation. Jesus had accomplished and testified symbolically concerning the work of regeneration which the Spirit of God had already wrought in his heart.

My experience in baptism was as that of the Apostle Paul. As Baptists we do not contend that only Baptists are saved for many who bear the name have no saving relationship with Christ Jesus. Contrariwise, the thief on the cross never became a Baptist, but he went to Heaven. Obviously, baptism or immersion in water, then, has nothing

SPECIAL NOTICE

Peter Halliman, son of our missionary, Fred Halliman, has announced his call to go to New Guinea as a missionary. He is presently available to visit churches, preach for them, and tell about the mission work, and his plans. I strongly urge that supporting and interested churches hear this young man. We need to hear from several churches who would want brother Peter to visit them. We will need to line these visits up so as to save on time and travel. Some churches will need to hear him during the week. Let us hear from you as to this. Contact Joseph M. Wilson, at the Baptist Examiner Address. You may contact Peter Halliman at Rt. 1, Box 153, Garrison, Ky., 41141. You may call me at



Peter Halliman

606-325-2012 (Church) or 606-928-9213 (home) relative to this matter. There will be a great need for increased support for New Guinea Missions due to Brother Peter going there. Please pray for this young man as he makes plans concerning this, and please consider financial support of this great mission work.

whatever to do with one's salvation.

As Baptists, we are evangelicals whose primary concern for you is found in Paul's declaration, **"IF THOU SHALT CONFESS WITH THY MOUTH THAT JESUS IS LORD AND BELIEVE IN THINE HEART THAT GOD**

HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, THOU SHALT BE SAVED." Secondly, however, it is our desire that you will become a Baptist in order that you might serve God more honestly, faithfully and fully in accord with the teachings of His Holy, inspired and infallible Word.

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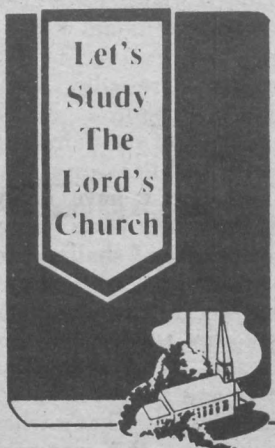
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