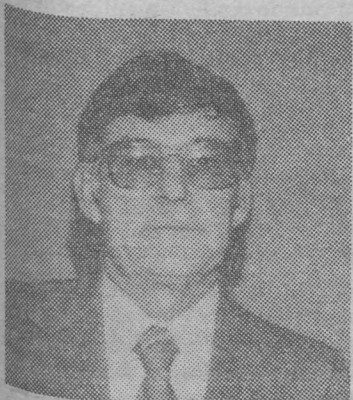


EXAMINE YOURSELF

by Ray Brown
Indore, W. Va.

Another class of people that are going to hear those awesome words, "Depart from Me ye workers of iniquity, I never knew you" are those that mistake the absence of doubt for a proof they have savingly come to Christ. People will say, "Well, I don't have any doubts, I don't have any fears." Well, I don't have any doubts. I have doubts, a lot of times. It was a saved man who cried to Jesus and said, "Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief." We have fears and anxieties in our lives. A lot of times we are frightened. I talk to people and they say, "Well, I have never had a doubt about anything since I have been saved." How many mistake the absence of doubt for proof that they savingly came to Christ?

Listen, people, we don't



Ray Brown

possess Christ as we do our homes, our land, our deeds, our money, our strong box that we take out occasionally to look through and find security and strength in personal possessions. People, I am telling you, we feast upon Christ. Christ is our life. Is not Christ our substance? Is He not our food? Do we not feast upon Him? Do we not chew and digest that which our stomachs work up every day? I feast upon Christ in His Word. Job said in Job 23:12, "Neither have I gone back from the commandment of His lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food." In other words, more than the physical food. We feast upon Him spiritually. We chew and digest the Word of God just like we do our physical food.

Oh, but the empty professors, those that Jesus said to, "Depart from me, I never knew you." They feast upon a good opinion of themselves rather than upon Christ. "Do not we have wonderful works?" they asked. They will run up to you and ask, "What are you doing for Christ?" People, having a good opinion of themselves,

(Continued on Page 6 Column 1)

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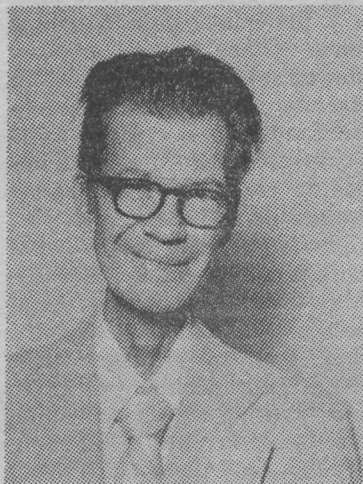
No matter how long you nurse a grudge it won't get better.

(USPS 042-340)

THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF THE ATONEMENT

by Bill Dudley
Winston Salem, N.C.

Arthur W. Pink, in the introduction (p. 15) to his great work on "The Satisfaction of Christ," refers to a statement found in A.S. Hodge on "The Atonement," and I can do no better. "I insist that, as the gospel is wholly a matter of Divine revelation, the answer to the question, 'What did Christ do on earth in order to reconcile us to God?' must be sought exclusively in a full and fair induction from all the Scriptures that teach upon the subject. From a survey of all the matter revealed on the subject, what in the judg-



Bill Dudley

ment of a mind unprejudiced by theories, did the sacred writers intend us to believe? The result of such an examination, unmodified by philosophy or secular analogies is alone, we think the true redemptive work of Christ."

George Smeaton, a name not as well known as that of Hodge or Pink, but who, in his day, was considered the outstanding Biblical Theologian of Scotland, wrote two volumes on The Atonement. In these he deals with every verse in the New Testament which has any bearing on the subject. To read these

(Continued on Page 3 Column 3)

OUR SAVIOUR

by Bob Hoskins
Crestline, OH.

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21).

There are times that we come together to worship the Lord. In baptism, the Lord's Supper, truths relative to the church. Other times, we look at the Sovereignty of God, or the doctrine of Election, or some of the relative doctrines. But now I don't want us to look to these except indirectly. Rather, I want us to look to the Lord Jesus Christ. In Galatians 6:14, "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." As I say, beloved, if I could have my way this day, I would want us not to look at anything except



Bob Hoskins

the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Joseph's thoughts were not God's thoughts. God had a purpose for Mary, and that purpose was that she was to bear the Christ Child. No human father was to beget the Child. But rather in a supernatural and miraculous way, Mary was to conceive this Child of the Holy Spirit. Mary was to bear this child and bring the Lord Jesus Christ into this world so far as His earthly arrival was concerned. That was God's plan, and God's thoughts, and God's purpose. But Joseph had different ideas of thoughts about the matter. When he learned that Mary was bearing a child, and knew that the child did not belong to him, Joseph immediately thinking of her being betrothed unto him, decided that he ought to put her away. He was engaged to her, but when he found that she was soon to have a child, his impression was that she, as a result of sin, was bearing the child and he should put her away.

But Joseph not willing to make of her a public example, it was while he was thinking this that the Lord sent an angel to speak to him. Here we have two thoughts, man's thoughts and God's thoughts. God had a purpose for that which was taking place. Joseph thought about it just the opposite to the way in which God thought about it. Here we can see that Joseph's thoughts were not the thoughts of God. God's thoughts are not our thoughts, or our ways are not God's ways.

The Lord God tells Isaiah in 55:8-9: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord."

(Continued on Page 4 Column 5)

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BAPTISTIC

The Baptist Examiner

Baptist Is Our Middle Name

Paid Circulation in All States and in Many Foreign Countries

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

VOL. 56, NO. 2

ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, JANUARY 28, 1984

WHOLE NUMBER 2425

THE CHURCH A CHRISTIAN OUGHT TO JOIN

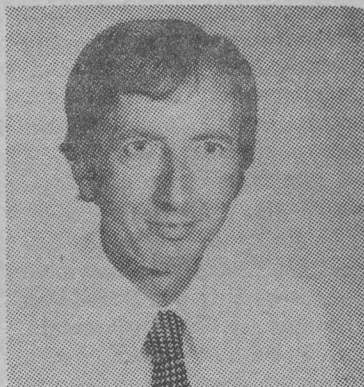
by Ron Boswell
Hagerstown, MD.

"...they had all things common" (Acts 4:32).

The text before us was spoken about the Baptist Church located at Jerusalem. In its context, the text is telling about their money and earthly possessions. This text shows a great unity and dedication among the members. Money is generally the closest thing to a man's heart. Only the Grace of God could create the attitude that our text speaks of. As we study this text, I want to show you that it was a Baptist Church that had all things in common and that, if saved, you would be greatly blessed to be a member of one.

At the onset of this message, let me say that there are many saved people that are not Baptists. There were many Christians that did not join the Baptist Church that our text speaks

of. The Bible declares that a multitude refused to join them even though they had been saved.



Ron Boswell

Many believers were added to the Lord. They were indeed saved. They were not added to the Baptist Church at Jerusalem. This was surely different than what we read about in Acts 2:41, listen: "Then they that

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

Though you may be saved and that will be the greatest of all blessings, I believe the second greatest blessing would be for you to be a member of a New Testament Baptist Church — the Church that Jesus Himself built. Let us consider this Church and the things they had in common.

I. SALVATION. They all had the same salvation in common. There is only one salvation, that is the salvation wrought by the Lord Jesus Christ. He died for the ungodly, taking the penalty and judgment for the sinner. He was buried and rose from the dead to justify all those whose sins He bore. It is called the common salvation as it is the only salvation. They had all been cleansed by the

(Continued on Page 5 Column 3)

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Joseph M. Wilson

THREE HOMES WE ALL NEED

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea... And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Rev. 21:1-4).

This text is used just to introduce my subject, for it deals with only one of the homes to which my subject refers. I consider the subject to embrace three things of much importance. We all need a Christian home, a church home, and a heavenly home.

We all need a Christian home. Few things are more important to one than the kind of home in which he is reared. The home is the building block of society, and we will never build a proper society until our homes become what they ought to be. The answer to that important question, "...What manner of child

shall this be?" (Lk. 1:66), will come, in part, from the kind of home in which he is reared. The greatest need in America today is godly homes. Sovereign, electing grace in salvation is certainly a truth of the Bible which we never desire to minimize or forget. Still, in general it will be true that out of godly homes come godly men and women, and out of ungodly homes come ungodly men and women producing an ungodly society.

A Christian home is one where Jesus Christ is properly honored. He, first of all, must be received as Lord and Saviour

(Continued on Page 2 Column 1)

The Baptist Examiner

THE BAPTIST PAPER FOR
THE BAPTIST PEOPLE

JOSEPH M. WILSON, Editor

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HOMES

(Continued from Page 1)

by those in the home, at least by some who are in authority in the home. We certainly cannot have a Christian home without Christian people. A Christian home is one where Jesus Christ is honored and obeyed in all the relationships and activities thereof. Oh, a Christian home is one which bows to the authority of Jesus Christ, and humbly and gladly seeks to do His will. That cannot be a Christian home where each of the members do their own thing, living in constant rebellion against the claims of the Lord Jesus Christ.

A Christian home is one where the Bible is honored. The central book in a Christian home is the Word of God. It is a home where the Bible is present in a prominent place and where each member has and uses the Bible. Other books and other entertainments and hobbies take second place to the Bible in a Christian home. The Bible is taught. The Father takes his place as the spiritual leader of the family. He teaches the Bible to the family and insists that each member of the family give a proper portion of time to studying the Word of God. Not only is the Bible read and taught, but it is obeyed in the Christian home. It is the rule book for the home. The home is governed, not by the children, not by each one doing what is right in his own eyes, but by the teachings of the Bible.

A Christian home is one in which much of the literature of the day cannot be found. The awful filth which clutters the news stands of our society, making them more filthy than the pig sty or the garbage heap is not found in the Christian home. None of the terrible sex books of today are found therein. The light, frothy, suggestive, degrading, God-dishonoring literature of today is not found in the Christian home. Books which dishonor the truths of the Word of God, even though not so filthy, still are missing from the Christian home. Books making light of Christianity, of the Bible, etc.,

are not in the Christian home.

The television set is under strict control in the Christian home. There are many programs that are not allowed to be seen in the Christian home. Brothers and sisters, there are few things more needful in a Christian home than a very, very strict supervision as to what is allowed to come into that home by way of the television set. Actually, this monster of iniquity may well prove to be the masterpiece of all of the evil inventions of the devil in his war against God and godliness. There is no one thing that has, in our lifetime, done more damage to the church, the home, and the world than television. It is a corrupter of the morals, a stealer of time which belongs to God, and a destroyer of real companionship within the family.

Filthy language is not allowed nor heard in the Christian home. The inhabitants thereof are told to place a strict watch upon their tongues. They are



JOE WILSON

not allowed to lie, to curse, to speak jokingly of the things of God, nor to use language that is dirty or sexually suggestive. The censorship of heaven is the rule of speech in the Christian home.

Prayer plays an important part in the Christian home. The saved individuals of the family are taught to be much in prayer. The problems and needs of the family are carried before God in prayer. God's help and wisdom is sought by the family in a time of prayer. These family prayers include petitions for others and especially for the Lord's blessings upon the church faithfully attended by every member of the family.

The Christian home is one where love is present and prevalent in all relationships. There is great, burning, growing love between husband and wife. The love of courtship has not burned out, but become stronger with each passing year. The bitterness, squabbling, etc., which is present in many homes is absent from the Christian home. The children are not disturbed and frightened by the violent arguing of the parents. There is love of the parents for their children. The parents manifest this love in guiding the children and caring for all their needs. There is love of the children for the parents, manifested in loving obedience thereunto, with the desire to be as kind and helpful in and around the home as they can. There is love between the brothers and sisters in a Christian home. Each thinks of the other, and deals fairly with the other. There is not arguing, certainly no real fighting in the Christian home.

A Christian home is one where there is kind, thoughtful, considerate co-operation in family activities. It is one where the family spends time together, talks together and does things together as a family. It is one where the family gets one of its greatest pleasures from spending time together. It is not where each one goes his own

way, totally ignoring the family. It is not where the home is simply a place to sleep and eat. It is a family, working together, playing together, loving one another and sharing in the things of one another.

A Christian home is one where the Church is properly honored. The Lord's Church is very important to a Christian home. Other things are not allowed to interfere with this paramount claim of the church. The family goes regularly to all the services of the church. They love the church and take an active part in all its activities. The Christian home is a real testimony to the Lord and His church, and they speak often of the things related to the church. They seek to influence their friends and neighbors to go to church with them, being willing to see that any who will have a way to attend the church.

The Christian home is an influence for God and a testimony to good in the neighborhood. It is like a city set on a hill, shedding the light of its influence over all the neighborhood. It is kind and helpful to others. It is the most important thing, and the greatest blessing in any neighborhood except the true church of Jesus Christ.

We all need this kind of home. Surely, children need this kind of home. Out there in the world, the lion and the bear are after our children. Every day, out in the world, our children are brought under the influences of Satan and evil. And brothers and sisters, it is so much worse for our children today than it was for us when we were children. When I was a child, society, even unsaved society, had some standards. There were some things concerning decency and morality that were expected of all. I remember some godly influences upon my own life by some of the teachers I sat under in school. Where is that influence today? Our schools are often hotbeds of sex, drugs, irreligion, and much wickedness. There are depraved and vile characters who would not have been allowed to teach children in the days gone by. But now the most wicked and godless of men and women are allowed this important privilege. It will take the very best and strongest Christian influence we can have in the home to even begin to overbalance the evil effects of society upon our children.

Oh, our children, our poor children! What chance do they have if they do not have a Christian home? See that cursing, wicked, gambling drunk who calls himself a Father. See that beer-guzzling, vile talking, half naked thing which calls herself a Mother. See those two leaders in the home who never take their children to church, who never talk about God before their children except to blaspheme His holy name. See the filth in that home. The vile literature. See the little boy go to the mailbox to bring in daddy's playboy magazine. See the refrigerator filled with beer or worse. Oh, our poor children! It would be better for them to be deprived of Mother and Father, and to be raised in an orphanage, than to be raised by wild animals like that. Did I say wild animals? Forgive me, snakes, rats, and animals of the wild, for surely no wild animal ever had such terrible influence for evil and for hell upon their offspring as many so-called parents do in our day. Wild animals out in society seeking to destroy our children! Wild animals in the home aiding and

abetting such destruction! What chance do poor children of today have? Oh, my soul, what a horror and terror is the lack of Christian homes!

We all need a Christian home. We need it for the enjoyment and blessing thereof. We need it for a testimony to those around us. We need it for a better, happier, more fruitful life. We need it for its influence upon eternal things.

Perchance I have sketched an impossible ideal. Have I? No I have not. But I will say that there are many, many Christians who do not have Christian homes. Let us look at this matter very seriously. Let us, who are Christians, seek God's grace and strength, and begin now to make our homes what they ought to be. So much depends on this. The welfare of our children, and of our nation is at stake. And much of the welfare of our church is at stake. Who would say that there is not a very real connection between the condition of the home of Christians and the condition of the churches of which they are members? The greatest good we can do for our family, for our church, for our country, and for our God is to endeavor with all our might to make our homes truly Christian homes.

The second home we all need is a church home. Now, of

course, salvation must come first, for no man is qualified for church membership who is not saved by the grace and power of the Lord. But, surely, salvation is the greatest need of every individual, and then, being saved, that one needs a church home. I will never put the church ahead of Christ, or ahead of salvation. Man is an eternal being who must exist consciously, feelingly, knowingly, somewhere forever and forever. There is a heaven and there is a hell, and that is all there is. The difference between them is salvation, so certainly man's first and greatest need is salvation.

Now, the first duty of a saved person is to follow Christ in Scriptural Baptism and thus become a member of the Lord's church. "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41). Surely, this verse tells us that folk are not added to the church simply by salvation, but by salvation and Baptism. This first duty, to join the church by baptism, is a very important one. No one thing is more important in the proper Christian life. It is important that one become a member of a true church and not just a member of anything calling

(Continued on Page 3 Column 1)

FROM THE EDITOR

This is our second issue of this year. I desire to continue the thoughts of my last editorial. I do thank my God for placing me here as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church and editor of The Baptist Examiner. I am unworthy of such a high honor. At times I feel totally inadequate for the task before me. Then I remember that my sufficiency is of the Lord, and that His grace is sufficient for me. I do earnestly implore our readers to pray very much for me that God will give me grace, wisdom, and strength for the work He has given me to do.

I do most sincerely and earnestly desire to make The Baptist Examiner a better paper; more to the glory of God, and more to the spiritual blessing of the reader. I will endeavor to do everything in my power to accomplish this.

I desire that this paper will do more and more to unite, encourage, and publicize our kind of Baptists. I desire that this paper will manifest more and more of a true and proper spirit of genuine Christian love. I shall pray and work to this end. The Baptist Examiner will continue to take a very strong stand for Bible truth and against error; but hopefully, will always do this in a proper spirit. I am sure that I can improve personally as to this matter. We will not compromise the truth. May God help us to be as uncompromising in showing love.

This paper is under the sole authority of Calvary Baptist Church and is edited totally by myself. However, we surely realize that, in many ways, The Baptist Examiner is and must be a joint effort of a multitude of churches and individuals. The church realizes that she could not do this work by herself. The editor realizes that he cannot do his job without the help of many, many others.

I appeal to the readers for this help. Pray much for me, for God's blessings and leading are my greatest need; and I verily believe in the necessity and effectiveness of the prayers of God's children. Always feel free to send me any advice, suggestions, or criticisms you might have. All such will be thoughtfully and prayerfully considered. I realize my inabilities. I am not infallible (only God is). I am willing to listen to and learn from others. I must make the final decision as to the practices of and material in The Baptist Examiner, but I will give much attention to what others advise in these things.

I appeal to the readers to send me material for the paper. You might run into material from different sources that would be a blessing to our readers, and that I may never come across. I will use such at my discretion. I appeal to readers to write me letters. I will answer such, and will use some in the paper. I would really like more letters to run therein. I appeal to readers to send me short articles on "Why I Like The Baptist Examiner" with your picture that I might use in the paper.

Especially do I appeal to the preacher brethren to send me sermons for The Baptist Examiner. The lack of material from brother preachers is my greatest single handicap in sending forth the kind of paper I desire. Brethren, I cannot make The Baptist Examiner any better than the material you send me (in the main). I can improve my part therein. I can use more sermons from men gone on to glory, but I would prefer to use living men so as to promote the present ministry of God's preachers. I do not intend nor desire to write much (if any) more than I do for the paper. Brethren, I need your help. Send me articles, and then send me some more articles. Send me sermons on doctrines, on expositions of Scripture, on prophecy, on practical Christian living and serving. Send me evangelistic sermons to the unsaved. Send me good sermons, do your best in every way. Again, I need your help, preacher brethren. I need the help of all our readers. May our sovereign God make this a blessed year for The Baptist Examiner and all its readers.

The growing Christian is like a head of wheat; the ripener he grows, the lower he bends his head.



Question: — Who was Zaza?
Answer: — One of the sons of Jonathan, son of Jada, First Chronicles 2:33: "And the sons of Jonathan; Peleth, and Zaza."

HOMES

(Continued from Page 2)

itself a church.

There are many so-called churches in the world today. One can find an organization preaching and practicing about anything, calling itself a church. There is a vast difference between these organizations. They differ as to origin and history. They differ as to government. They differ as to who is in authority. They differ as to practices. And do they ever differ as to the doctrines they teach! Surely, with all these differences, it becomes a matter of great importance as to which one a saved person joins.

Now, by the test of practice, history, and doctrine, we learn that only Sovereign Grace Landmark Missionary Baptist churches are the true churches of Christ. All others fail in all three of these matters. Therefore, every saved person needs a church home in such a church. We need a church home for the spiritual fellowship therein. Oh, we make too little of real spiritual fellowship. It ought to be a chief delight of God's children to be down at the church house fellowshiping with the saints of God. Oh, we ought to go early and stay late enjoying such fellowship. Then this fellowship between the saints in a church should carry over into our lives even when we are not in church meetings. The church should have different times of fellowship. The church members should have much individual fellowship during the week. We need a church home because of the warm, strengthening fellowship it gives.

We need a church home in order to grow in grace and knowledge. That saved person cannot and will not grow as he should without a church home. It is a lie of the devil that "one can be as good a Christian at home as at church." Not so, beloved, not so! God has ordained and ordered that we should honor the church, and no man can grow spiritually while living in neglect of God ordained means of grace of which the church is surely one.

We need a church home because it is the God ordained and God authorized place where one should serve the Lord. Freelandism is of the devil and contrary to the Bible. One is not to serve the Lord on his own, disregarding the church, ignoring the authority God has given His true churches. If I desire to properly glorify and serve my Lord who hath saved me, I must do so in, through, and under the authority of one of His true churches.

Having a church home demands that one be a faithful, active, serving, good member. Many of the possible blessings

of a church home are lost because the individual is not the kind of church member he should be. The church occupies so little place in the lives of many who claim to be saved. It takes too little of their time, no wonder they get so little out of it. What one gets out of being a church member will be in proportion to what that one puts into it.

A third home we all need is a heavenly home. Oh, how great this need is! We need a heavenly home where all is peace and joy and love. Where one will be with the Saviour, with the Trinity, with the saved of all ages, forever and forever. Now, man, from the moment of conception, is an eternal being. Life begins at conception, despite the lying claims of the murdering abortionists and murderous favorers thereof. The hands of all those who aid, abet, participate in, or approve of abortion are stained red with the blood of murder. God forbid that I should call it a softer or lesser name. From the moment of conception, there is a life that must exist knowingly, consciously, feelingly, somewhere forever and forever. Now there is an awful hell of terrible suffering beyond the power of man to conceive. A hell of hot fire. A hell of many torments. A hell of worse suffering than anyone on this earth has ever begun to endure. A hell that should cause every individual of mankind to immediately flee to the only Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, for eternal salvation.

Then, there is a heaven. There is a heaven as wonderful as hell is horrible. A heaven of sweet and eternal blessedness. A heaven free from sorrow, trouble, suffering, and pain of any and every kind. A heaven of sweet delights. A heaven of precious company. A heaven of which "the half has never been told." A heaven so wonderful that its blessedness should encourage every one among lost mankind to immediately flee to Him who is the only way to heaven.

This is all there is. There is no purgatory. Purgatory is a lie invented by lying Roman Catholic priests as a means of stealing money from mankind and enriching the so-called Roman Catholic Church. Every teacher of purgatory ought to be immediately imprisoned for stealing money from others by fraud and lying pretence. There is no annihilation. Annihilation is a lie invented by Seventh Day Adventists, Jehovah's False Witnesses, and other demon-inspired men to deceive the unwary and cause them to go to the hell in which they do not believe. There is no second chance after death, invented by dupes of Satan, and taught to men to encourage them in lives of sin and rebellion against God. There are none of these. There is a heaven and there is a hell and that is all there is. And, since man is an eternal being; since he must exist somewhere forever, since there are only heaven and hell, man must have one or the other of these as his eternal home. Oh, dear friend, we need a heavenly home, where we will dwell in perfect joy, peace, and blessedness forever.

Now, Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation, and the only way one can have a heavenly home. In fact, He is the only way one can have a Christian home, a church home, or a heavenly home. And surely, you will agree with me that these are three homes we all need. I ask you, my dear friend, how is it with you? Do you have either or

all of these three homes? What could be more important to you than this matter? I point you to the Lord Jesus Christ as the only one who can give you either and/or all of these three homes that we all need. May the Lord bless you all!

BIBLICAL

(Continued from Page 1)

two volumes is an education in itself.

The doctrine of The Atonement is found in Genesis, and is repeated constantly throughout the Bible. It sometimes seems as if the Atonement of The Lamb for His own was the only message of the Bible. Jesus is presented through out as the sovereign, saving Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the elect world. One cannot read and believe the whole of the Bible without desiring to sing "The Song of Moses and the Lamb."

In some ways, the heart of the Old Testament is the book of Leviticus. It is the book of God-ordained worship. God's holiness is spoken of eighty-seven times in this book. "Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am Holy" (Lev. 19:2). Note that the word "LORD," which is used in connection with God's holiness is the redemptive name of God; and it is repeated in many verses in this chapter. In fact, this redemptive name of God is found nearly three hundred times in Leviticus, the Book of Worship.

It is no wonder that the Apostle Paul, who deals with the subject of The Atonement more than any other New Testament writer, made the death of Jesus Christ to be the central and prominent part of his total ministry. He preached to the Jew and to the Gentile the "cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" as the one, only, and totally and eternally sufficient way of salvation. No wonder that Paul could and did say to the Galatians, who were being tempted to turn from faith in the Christ of Calvary, to the works of the law for salvation, "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world" (Gal. 6:14). And no wonder that the same apostle said that, though the Jew would count it a stumbling block and the Greeks would esteem it foolishness, he would still, "...preach Christ crucified" (I Cor. 1:23).

Is it any wonder that the Reformed (modernist and liberal) Jew does not use the book of Leviticus in his so-called worship service? Such are anti-God in thinking.

The preacher is called to preach the Inspired Word of God: the Trinity, the revelation of God in Jesus Christ. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ; His second coming, and all else in the Bible. Yet many preachers of our day in the major denominations of professed Christendom deny all the things they were ordained to preach, including the atonement of Jesus Christ for the elect of God.

Paul speaks of the unbelief of the nation Israel as culminating in her rejection of Jesus Christ and His atoning death. However, when he speaks of the future salvation and restoration of Israel, he tells of a time when they will believe this truth of the Word of God. "For I would not, brethren, that ye should

be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits: that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, "There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins" (Rom. 11:25-27). Not only Israel, but all who are saved will be saved by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. The throng before the throne in glory will be those who, "...have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Rev. 7:14).

Now let us look at two outstanding verses of Scripture which are central to both the Old and New Testaments as to this doctrine. "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for the soul" (Lev. 17:11). This was given to God's earthly people, looking forward to the earthly inheritance which God had promised them. In our day we are seeing the beginning of the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel: promises of restoration to their land and of eternal salvation. Their salvation is based on the precious blood of Jesus Christ, even as is the salvation of the Gentiles in our day.

One of the first things John the Baptist said about Jesus is found in John 1:29, "...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John knew the Old Testament prophecies of Jesus Christ and His atoning death. He was a prophet of God, of whom Jesus said there was none greater born of woman. John had received a revelation from God relative to Jesus Christ. He had been told of a special event which would accompany the baptism of Jesus. He saw that event. He bore witness to Jesus as the one, only, and sufficient saviour of the elect of God. If ever a man magnified Jesus Christ and preached not only that the atonement is in Jesus, but that Jesus is the atonement, it was John the Baptist. This one who prepared the material out of which Jesus organized the first Baptist Church was a preacher of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ.

Paul preached the same thing in II Corinthians 5:21, he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." Beloved friend, Christianity is Christ and Christ is Christianity. Salvation is Christ and Christ is salvation. Turn it any way you desire and it still comes out "Jesus Christ is all in all." "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord" (I Cor. 1:30-31).

Look at verse 30 with me more closely for a moment. Exactly what does one who receives Jesus Christ and His atonement as the one way of salvation have at that moment? Sometimes people think that, after they are saved, they need to go on and get "sanctified," or get the second and third blessing. Paul's doctrine is that the moment one trusts Jesus Christ as saviour, he is given all he needs for a full, free, and eternal salvation. One might ask the question, if God saves us eternally by the blood

of Jesus, and we have nothing to do with it, what then? Do we just live on in a life of sin? Does God's way of salvation have no provision for the holy living of the redeemed? Look at Titus 2:14, "Who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Salvation by grace teaches us — and teaches us effectively so that we do learn — to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.

God saves us to live for Him. God saves us to serve Him. When one is brought by the Spirit to trust in Christ for salvation, that one is also regenerated and given a new nature which delights in the law of God after the inward man. With that new nature, and out of deep gratitude and love to the Lord who died for him, one is motivated and empowered to live to the glory of God. The way of salvation by grace and by God's power and by the blood of Jesus Christ is a way which produces the fruits of service and holiness in the lives of those thus saved. There will be failures in our lives. We are not what we want to be, we are not what we are going to be; but praise God, neither are we what we used to be. God has provided the method, the power, and the means for growth in grace for the redeemed child of God. If one is truly saved by the blood of Jesus Christ, he has a desire to live for the Lord, and he will persevere in repentance, in faith, and in holiness until the end of his journey through this old world.

We, who are saved by the atonement of Jesus Christ, are enabled and willing to suffer persecution for our dear Lord. "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (II Tim. 3:12). Thanksgiving to Him for saving us by His blood causes us to live godly, and to take joyfully the ridicule and persecution which comes to us therefore.

Salvation from sin, approach to God, holy living has never been in any way other than by the blood of Jesus Christ. The saints of old, the saints of today, and the saints of tomorrow are all saved by the same precious blood. In some places in the Orient there are common baths where all bathe together. I would not approve of, or use such, but for the whole family of God there is the one common bath of the precious blood of Jesus which washes us from our sins. The Old and the New Testaments are full of this doctrine, and both unite in bearing witness to the Lamb of God, the Saviour of the elect world of God.

The parable of the Pharisee and the Publican in Luke 18:9-14 bears witness to salvation by the blood of Jesus Christ. The Publican prayed, "God be merciful to me a sinner." The word for merciful is in the Greek "hilaskomai." It is used in connection with the Mercy Seat which contained the tables of the Law of God which condemns all lawbreakers (all mankind) to death. But the high priest of Israel (a type of Jesus Christ, our great high priest), on the Day of Atonement, placed the blood of a substitute upon the mercy seat which covered

(Continued on Page 4 Column 4)

A church is like a bank — the more you put into it, the more interest you derive!

The Baptist Examiner Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

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Please reconcile "the wages of sin is death..." Romans 6:23 with Eternal Punishment.

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Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

As far as I am concerned, there is no reconciliation needed. I say this because there is no clearer doctrine in the Word of God, than that of eternal punishment. There is no reconciliation needed because these are not terms of contradiction; but are two terms teaching the same thing.

Let me mention just a few proofs of eternal punishment. The same Greek words are used to describe eternal or everlasting punishment as are used to describe eternal or everlasting life. We could not do away with the one without doing away with the other. I offer one example; in Matthew 25:41, Jesus said: "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire; chapter 26:46, speaks of everlasting punishment. In John 3:16, Jesus mentions "everlasting life"; The same word is used to describe both everlasting punishment and everlasting life. I will also mention the example of the rich man in Luke chapter sixteen. I do not believe this is a parable; however, even if it were a parable, the truth taught here would not change. We find that the rich man died, and then he went to hell. Death was not all there was. We know he was not annihilated, because the conversation between him and Abraham took longer than it would have taken for him to be consumed by fire. We know he was not soul sleeping; because we find him in great pain and speaking with Abraham. We also find that his emotions were not dead for he was concerned about his brethren. Brethren, this example, along with many verses in the Bible prove there is indeed eternal punishment. I do not believe a person can be saved and not believe in eternal punishment. There are certain truths that God teaches all those who are saved. I believe the reality of hell to be one of these doctrines.

Let me quickly give you the interpretation of this verse. I would like to say that the word death in itself would prove nothing. The Bible does not say death is all there is to sin. Death, physical, is one of the consequences of sin. It is not the only consequence. I do not believe this is the answer to this verse. I believe the death here referred to is the second death mentioned in Revelation 20.

Revelation 20:14: "And death and hell were cast into

the lake of fire. This is the second death." Revelation 21:8 says: "...shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death." The second death here refers to the eternal punishment of men in hell. I believe this is the comparison made in Romans 6:23. Eternal life is contrasted with eternal death or hell.

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The only conflict here is a misconception of the meaning of the word "death". In one sense the word is used to mean the separation of body and soul. When the rich man of Luke 16:14-31 died his body was buried, but his soul went to Hades. When the beggar died, we are not told what became of his body, but the angels carried his soul into paradise (Abraham's bosom).

In another sense the word "death" is used to mean separation of man from God. The day Adam disobeyed God he died — became separated from God. Many years later he died physically — his soul and body were separated. It is because of our inheritance from Adam that we are all born spiritually dead — separated from God and that we also face a physical death — separation of soul and body.

Death used in either of these senses is the result of sin. This is what Romans 6:23 is telling us, "the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Eternal punishment is the second death of Revelation 20:13, 14 where it is said, "And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

This passage tells us that there will be a resurrection of the wicked and they will be judged before being cast into the lake of fire. "Death and hell (body and soul) were cast into the lake of fire."

From the Word of God we see that because of sin all are born dead, spiritually dead, and all are subject to physical death (separation of body and soul). The Bible also teaches that those who never believe on Christ will one day be cast into the lake of fire, which is the second death. This will not only be eternal separation from God, but will be also eternal punishment, "—their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quen-

ched" (Mark 9:44).

No where in the Bible is the word "death" used to indicate annihilation or non-existence of an individual.

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In order to begin we must first understand that death is not annihilation. Many people think that a person ceases to exist when they die; that is not true. Let me remind you that when God created man, He breathed into man eternal life. "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Gen. 2:7).

You see, when God created man, He did something He did not do with any of the animals. He breathed a part of Himself in man — the breath of life. No man ever ceases to exist when he dies, whether he is a saved person or not. "And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom; the rich man also died, and was buried: And in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom" (Luke 16:22, 23). You see, when God gives any part of Himself, even His breath, it must be eternal, because every part of Him is everlasting.

There will be two resurrections. The first is when God's people are raised. "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection..." (Rev. 20:6). The second is when the unsaved will be raised to meet God in the judgment. The death of Romans 6:23 that you are asking about is the second death of Revelation 20:14. "And death (grave) and hell (Hades or the place of departed souls) were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." The body will be raised from the grave and the soul will be reunited to meet God in this judgment and will spend eternity in the final place of judgment or the lake of fire.

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I see no variance between the two terms, for the death in view or referred to in Romans 6:23 is not merely physical death, but spiritual and eternal death. The text sets in contrast penal death, which is eternal, with eternal life, which is the gift of God based on the merit of Jesus Christ.

Physical death was included in the penalty with which God threatened man in the garden of Eden, but the penalty was much broader in scope and was intended to effect death in every part of man.

By the sin of federal Adam spiritual death was immediate, and his separation from God was complete. Spiritual death may be properly spoken of as separation from God, for true life is to be with the living God. It is in this spiritual death-state all of Adam's posterity are born (Rom. 5:12; Eph. 2:1), and were it not for the death-cancelling grace of Him who said, "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35), all men would spend their existence here and hereafter utterly separated from God.

Spiritual death or separation from God means there is a total lack of communion between God and man, and without direction from God, man is not only void of ability to live the spiritual life, but left to himself he knows not how to manage his temporal life so as to avoid suffering. "Man is born unto trouble" (Job. 5:7).

Physical death, which is part of the penalty pronounced by God upon sin, is consummated by the soul taking leave of the body. "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Gen. 3:19), was never spoken of the soul, but of the body only. When the soul takes leave of the body, the body "whose foundation is in the dust" (Job 4:19), and the body under the penalty of death returns to the earth from whence it came, and from whence it shall one day be resurrected.

Spiritual death and physical death are but part of the wages of sin, which wages, apart from the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, shall culminate or reach its highest woe in eternal death. The awful wages of sin are climaxed by eternal death, in which they who die in their sins are cast in their aggregate being (body, soul, and spirit) into the lake of fire, and the smoke of their torment shall ascend up forever and ever (Rev. 20:11-15, 14:11).

BIBLICAL

(Continued from Page 3)

the Ark of the covenant. Thus, the broken law was hidden from God's eyes by the blood of the substitute. Even so does the blood of Jesus — not just cover — but washes away our sins so that they are buried in the sea, never to be remembered against us forever more. The Publican was not, as was the Pharisee, looking to his own works for salvation. He knew that he had no good works, only evil ones. He was looking to the blood on the mercy seat. He was trusting in the shed blood of an innocent substitute, even that of Jesus Christ. And the Bible says, "this man went down to his house justified."

We have broken God's law. We are condemned to eternal hell. But Jesus Christ is our mercy seat. He is our high priest. He is our sacrifice. His blood is on the mercy seat in heaven at this very hour. He took our place. He bore our curse. We are redeemed from the curse of the law of God. We are saved forevermore by the blood of Jesus Christ, praise the Lord! I delight to think about the Blood. I delight to sing about the Blood. I rest my hope for time and eternity on the

atoning blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. May God bless you!

SAVIOUR

(Continued from Page 1)

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Isaiah says that God's ways and God's thoughts are different to our ways and our thoughts, as the heavens is above the earth.

The passage of Scripture shows that this is exactly what Joseph did. We see that his ways and his thoughts were not in accord with the ways and thoughts of God, and therefore Joseph immediately laid aside all his ideas and all the things that he was considering, and accepted God's thoughts and God's suggestions so far as Mary was concerned.

You should push aside your thoughts and ways into the background that are contrary to God's ways and thoughts. And just say, "Lord, so be it. You lead and I will follow. Your thoughts and ways are best."

The angel of the Lord, speaking to Joseph, tells him (Joseph) in Matthew 1:21: "And she shall bring forth a son and thou (Joseph) shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins."

How did the angel get the knowledge that a son was to be born in the home? Would you be able to say, as the angel said, that a son was to be born? No, No, beloved. It would be necessary for you to wait its birth to know whether it is a son or daughter. And it would be necessary for you to await to see if he is a fit subject to be the Son of God to die for the sins of the world of people that the Father had given to the Son.

I say, beloved, this presents us with a marvelous picture so far as the wisdom of God is concerned.

"Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world" (Acts 15:18).

Believe me, when I say there isn't anything that ever takes place, but that God knew about it, and planned it, and fashioned it that way before the foundation of the world.

"In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2:3).

Notice that wisdom and knowledge are hid in the Lord Jesus Christ. He does not just know a little bit about us. He knows all there is to know about us. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, they are all hid in Jesus Christ.

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" (Rom. 11:33).

I think this world is in a terrible state of affairs both politically and religiously, but I know that God is on His throne and He is directing, and having His way in heaven and earth. This should and will give the child of God comfort beyond measure. God, also, has knowledge and control of all events in your life and mine.

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us" (Matt. 1:23).

We also read in Isaiah 7:14: "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign, Behold a

(Continued on Page 5 Column 1)

If you are a Christian, you can expect folk to criticize, but you ought to live so nobody will believe them.

SAVIOUR

(Continued from Page 4)

virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel."

This one who was to be born had a work to do. Listen, "For he shall save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21).

It was being a Saviour that Jesus Christ came into this world for and that only. He did not come to make this world a better place to live in, or to teach us how to wear clothes to make us beautiful. Rather, the Lord Jesus Christ came for one purpose and that of being a Saviour, of which we could not do ourselves, because the sacrifice had to be a perfect sacrifice.

"And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again" (Mark 8:31).

In Hebrews 9:22: "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."

I John 1:7: "But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

These verses tell us for what purpose that Christ came into the world. Don't let anyone tell you that Jesus Christ came into this world to set an example. He never came to tell us that we should be true to our convictions, even if we have to die for them. He never came to help us to make this world a better place in which to live. He never came to make us more refined. Rather, Jesus Christ came to die for the sins of the elect, and no more.

John 3:14: "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness even so must the Son of man be lifted up."

In our country a few years back you would hear the words "rubbed out." That was the gangsters way of saying, that someone was murdered. Today, you pick up the paper and read how someone over in Russia has been "liquidated," which is Russia's phrase for murder. The expression "lifted up", as applied to the Lord Jesus Christ means exactly the same as "rubbed out" did to gangsters or "liquidated" means in Russia today. Jesus Christ came to die for our sins. He came to be "lifted up." He came to die as a sacrifice for our sins. I can not emphasize it enough when I say that before Jesus Christ was born, it was prophesied of Him by the angel when he was talking to Joseph, that Jesus was to save His people from their sins. Beloved, that is why He came.

I try to emphasize always that sin must be paid for. Believe me when I tell you sin has to be paid for. If you go to hell, and suffer in hell, you pay for your sins. If Jesus Christ took your sins to the cross, and died at Calvary for your sins, He paid for them there. You either pay for your sins in hell, or Jesus Christ paid for them on the cross, but they are going to be paid for somehow. This text tells us what work Jesus came for — His work was that of a Saviour.

The Christian's joy is Saved From Our Sins. God doesn't just save people to let them continue to live in their sins, but God saves people through Jesus

Christ from their sins. Now I don't mean to say that everyone is going to live perfectly from the time we are saved or born again until we die. The fact of the matter is, you have that old carnal, fleshly nature that is going to give you and me a lot of trouble and difficulty. Before you are saved twenty-four hours, that old carnal nature is going to rise up and cause you trouble.

I am convinced of this fact, that Jesus Christ came into this world not to save you that you might keep on living in your sins, but He came to save you from your sins.

"Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). (World here does not mean the world as we know it, but the world that God gave to Christ in eternity past).

"For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world; but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself" (Heb. 9:26).

I recognize the fact that He does put away our sins in that He takes them away from us, that we do not have the penalty of them anymore. I realize that is true, but I am also concerned about this truth — that is, God wants His people to be saved from their sins.

Beloved, when Jesus Christ went to Calvary and died for my sins, I recognize that all the sins of my life were carried away in just that manner. Jesus Christ became the scape goat, and died for my sins, and carried them away.

I would to God that you and I could realize that when Jesus Christ died, He died to save us from all our sins with no exceptions.

Too many times we fall back on the fact that we have an old nature — we are a two-natured people. By that, the born-again have a spiritual nature, which is fighting with the old Adamic nature. Too many times we just excuse ourselves to say that what we have done is a manifestation of the old nature. Believe me when I say to you, my Jesus came not only to save you from the penalty of your sins, but He came likewise to save you from having the sin of your life dominate in your experience.

WHO WAS JESUS TO SAVE?

My text says, He shall save His people from their sins. It says His people? I ask you, who are His people? The Scripture says in John 17:2, "As thou hast given him power (authority) over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him." Then in verses 6-11 we find these words of Christ: "I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world; thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me."

I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.

And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are" (John 17:6-11).

Matthew 26:28: "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Jesus did not say my blood is shed for all, but He said, "My blood is shed for many, for the remission of sins."

You say, How can I know whether or not I am one of the elect? Beloved, that is not for you to know until you are saved. Your business is to believe that Jesus died for you, and if God enables you to receive Him as your Saviour, you'll then have the assurance that you are one of the elect.

May the blessings of God rest upon your soul and may you believe Him, and may you trust Him and come out publicly and acknowledge Him as your Saviour and Lord! May this be a blessing to all that read it is my prayer and hope!

CHURCH

(Continued from Page 1)

same blood. At one time they had all been filthy; they had been slaves to sin and unrighteousness; their pasts were filled with shame. Some had been guilty of one vice, some of a different vice. They had in common a need of cleansing. They were all cleansed by the same agent, the Blood of the Lamb. Listen: "...the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7).

Do you not see that when they met together they met as clean individuals? They had a common cleansing in the precious Blood of Jesus. Child of God, should you not be a member of a church that teaches Jesus as the only salvation and His Blood as the only way to have your sins remitted? They all had Salvation by Grace in common. The doctrinal stand of this Church is stated in Acts 15:11, listen:

"But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they."

Now the addition of any work or works for salvation would not be Salvation by Grace. If you will study the creeds of the various denominations, you will see how works are added. Some say you must add works to stay saved. Some call baptism and the Lord's Supper a sacrament — meaning that they play a part in salvation. Some say you must be baptized. Some say you must be a member of the church. Baptists have always said, just like this Church at Jerusalem, that salvation is by Grace without any works. It is a great blessing to be united in church membership with those that have Salvation by Grace in common.

They all had a common destination, listen:

"...whom he justified, them he also glorified" (Romans 8:30).

As we sit in church services together, do you realize we are all alike going to be glorified? Every one that God justifies, He promises to glorify. There are no "ifs" in this verse. It is sure and certain for it rests upon God Himself. It is a great blessing to be united with those having the same destiny. Friendships formed with God's children will last

forever. I say to be a member of a church where everyone has the same destiny in common is a great help in this life. We are not of those that believe the Lord will lose some along the way.

Baptists have always believed that only those professing salvation should be members. No one is ever forced to be a Baptist. A man should not be a Baptist simply because his wife is one or vice versa. Parents can not receive membership for their children. To be a Baptist is an individual choice. We see the force of our text then. Having been saved, they willingly had all things common, they banded together in God's appointed way. They shared great fellowship together as the Blood-bought children of the Lord. Would it not help you, child of God, to belong to a Church like this?

II. BAPTISM AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

They all had the same kind of baptism. Today many practice triune immersion, infant sprinkling and pouring. Some are baptized on the authority of some man and some are baptized on the authority of a man-made church. The only kind of baptism that meets God's requirement is Baptist baptism on the authority of a Baptist Church. There is only one kind of baptism. The saints we read about in our text had this baptism in common. Baptists do not accept alien immersions because there was no authority to administer them. There is only one baptism and one church, listen: "There is one body..." (Ephesians 4:4). "One Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5).

A man said to me, "Brother Boswell, you make too much of the Baptist name. I prefer to be called a Christian." That statement sounds good, but what does the Bible say? Let us look up the first use of the word Christian in the Bible. We find that it is Baptist Church members at the Antioch Baptist Church that were first called Christians, listen:

"...And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch" (Acts 11:26). Beloved, should you not have the same kind of baptism the people in the Book of Acts had? Should you not belong to the same kind of church that they belonged to?

Surely you will agree that had you lived in those days, you would have wanted to belong to the Church in our text. You would have wanted to have had all things in common with them. True, you can not go back in time and live in those days, yet I have good news for you. Jesus claimed that the Church He built would exist until He comes again. Listen:

"...I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). His churches exist even today. You can still get Baptist baptism. You can still be a member of His Church. Child of God, do you not owe it to yourself to search these things out? It is a great privilege to belong to a church founded by Christ. We were redeemed by Christ. Why should we want to belong to a church founded by a mortal such as ourselves? The children of God in our text had baptism and church membership in common. As saved people we are all in the family of God and have much in common

with one another. The people in our text went further — they had baptism and church membership in common.

III. THEY HAD THE SAME FOES. It is true that all the saved throughout the world have the same foes. The text speaks of those Church members having all things in common. It is a comforting thought to think of the men and women sitting in the next pew as having the same foes you do, that your problems are not peculiar to just you. Your sisters and brothers in Christ have the same battles you do.

We all have the devil as a common foe, listen: "...your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8). Satan hates God's elect and rages against them. We have an encouragement to pray for one another by name. We have the assurance that we are being prayed for by name. Do you not see the need of being united with those having the devil as a common foe?

We all have temptation as a common foe, listen: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man..." (I Corinthians 10:13).

Though you are badly tempted and sorely tried, you must realize that all God's children are tempted and tried. We should take heart and not be discouraged. That man sitting next to you may have had the same temptation last week that you wrestle with today. You are among people that know temptation; you are among fellow warriors; you are among those that want to help and encourage you. You are among those that have the common foe of temptation. To belong to a Church like this will be a help to you.

We all have inner conflicts in common. When we would do our most noble service for Jesus, suddenly there arises an evil motive within us. Sometimes there arises wicked thoughts. Though we hate those motives and thoughts, yet they have arisen from within us. There is inner conflict. We know we should be active and we want to be zealous for the Lord, yet we often are as cold as ice water. There is inner conflict. We want to have more compassion, yet we find our heart too cold and there is inner conflict.

I say it is a great blessing and help to be a member of a Church that has so much in common. Every Christian needs a church home. In the world we have ridicule and suffer shame because we are saved. When we meet together, we can all rejoice together because we have this in common.

"...rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name" (Acts 5:41).

IV. THEY HAD THE SAME GOALS IN COMMON. The Great Commission was given to this Church. It consisted of three parts: 1. To preach the Gospel; 2. to baptize those that were saved thereby taking them into the Church; 3. then, to teach the newly baptized converts all things Jesus commanded. No interdenominational meeting could ever carry that out. The men that Jesus gave the Great Commission to, would one day die, but He promised to be with the organiza-

(Continued on Page 6 Column 1)

CHURCH

(Continued from Page 5)

tion that He gave the Commission unto the end of the world. We believe He gave this commission to the Church He built, hence, we believe it is the Baptist Commission. Only Baptist Churches can carry this out to the fullest degree.

Many churches today have bowed down before mission boards. It was not so with the Church in our text. They did not pay homage to mission boards, but used their God-given authority. They had the same goal in common. They labored to carry out this Great Commission. You ought to seek out a church that makes this their program. There are many church programs in the religious world. I want to be a member where the program is carrying out the Great Commission and in the order in which Jesus gave it.

They had standing for the truth in common. The church is supposed to stand for the truth and oppose error. It is to conserve the truth. Listen: "...the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (I Timothy 3:15). How many churches today could be called "the pillar and ground of the truth?" Heresy abounds concerning baptism, the Lord's Supper, and Christ is worshipped with pagan holidays such as Easter and Christmas. Freewillism abounds and free Grace is unheard of. The creatures' decisions are magnified and unconditional election is denied. The opinions of men are placed above the Word of God. What a blessing it is to find a church where we can have standing for the truth in common. There is no substitute for standing shoulder to shoulder with those of like mind. It helps us to be stronger in the truth. We have a Divine Goal in common — standing for the Word of God.

We want to exalt Christ by carrying out the Great Commission and standing for the truth. May God grant that you be united with those having this common goal! It will have a great affect upon your Christian life!

TO THE LOST: Before you have the blessing of our text, you must be saved. You must be saved the same way the vilest are saved. There is only one way. There is only one Saviour and that is Jesus that died and rose again 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).

After that you have been saved, seek out a Church like our text speaks of and join it.

May God bless you all!

EXAMINE

(Continued from Page 1)

boasting and beating upon their chests. All of that is going to wither some day. When God called out to Isaiah and prophesied, He said, "I want you to prophesy and preach and I want you to lift your voice like a trumpet." He said, "Lord, what do you want me to preach?" God said, "Preach all flesh is grass." Isaiah 40:6. "The voice

said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field." All flesh is grass. Every bit of it. There is not some good and some bad. It is all bad. "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth." Did it say that some men's glory will fade like the flowers that bow their heads and fade? No, they all fade and die. You see a beautiful flower that comes up. It has a sweet fragrance but it dies. It bows its head and dies. No flesh is glorified in my presence. All flesh is grass and all the glory of man is like a flower that fadeth. God told him to preach it. I don't want you to put any good in it. It is all bad, a stench in my nostrils. "You go tell them."

I tell you, you try to talk to people that have a good opinion of themselves and not of God. You can't do anything with them. They say, "I do good, I treat my family right, I pay my bills, I am honest, I am a Godfearing man, etc." Well, that is fine and good, but, dear person, if you want to boast about even that, give the Holy Spirit credit. You would be rotten and a lot worse than what you are if it wasn't for the influence of the Holy Spirit in your life. Why do you see a lot of good, moral people that have restaurants and places where the sheep can go and eat? They don't sell booze there, they don't dance, and they don't have all that filthy corruption going on there because God's sheep have to have a place to sustain their weary bodies. God holds Satan in check. If God didn't hold him in check by the Holy Spirit, natural man would be a dirty, filthy thing. A lot worse than what he is. When you go into a place that does not sell alcoholic beverages, where you can go and sit without a bunch of drunks coming in and showing themselves and fighting, just look up and thank God for it. The influence of the Holy Spirit is holding check on the forces of evil.

When God withdraws His Spirit from the earth, what a terrible thing it is going to be! When God calls His Holy Spirit home, all of Satan's restaurants are going to be cut loose and it will be like a great tidal wave that is going to engulf the whole land. What are they going to do? They are going back to anarchy. What is anarchy? Every man does what seems right in his own eyes! The state of lawlessness or political disorder due to the absence of governmental authority. A man can say, "Well, I like the looks of your wife. I'll just blow your brains out and take her." Or, "I like your home. I'll just kill you and take it." It will seem right in their eyes to do these things. That is what is going to be taking place on this earth after the Lord comes and takes His people home. All of His people. There is not going to be some of them left. There is not going to be any stragglers come in! There is not going to be any of that when the Lord comes! He knows exactly where all of His people are. And when He comes, He is going to take them all and raise them all to meet Him in the air. So how many mistake the absence of doubt for proof that they savingly came to Christ?

Here is another group that is going to be there. How many, Jesus will say in that day, mistake a fear of the wrath to come for a hatred of sin? That is like using Jesus Christ as a

scapegoat from hell. Now, God will not save you on any kind of grounds like that. He will not save a man because a man fears hell. I know we fear hell, but I am saying, dear people, He will not save anybody on those conditions. Take the Arminian world. Their favorite gimmick is to tell a big, sad fairy tale. Once I heard a man in the organization when I was first saved, and oh, he was just pleading and begging and crying. He said he was at a young couple's house the other night and just had a wonderful time. He said he talked to them about Jesus. He said that they just absolutely wouldn't open their hearts and let Him in. He said that the next day the two young people went down the road and hit a car head on and were killed. He said they had an opportunity to be saved and would not do it. He said all sorts of crazy things. You see, we cannot drive people to Christ by scary stories and fairy tales. The Arminian world loves it because they are looking for a big membership and a big budget. They will do anything. They say that it doesn't make any difference, just get them here. Use any kind of gimmicks, anything you can do to get them to come. How many mistake the fear of the wrath to come for a hatred of sin.

Now, dear people, we understand and know, anybody in his right mind does not want to go to that burning pit. But the free willers, the Arminians, they know a natural man lives with a fear of hell in his heart, and will use this fear as a rod against man to "make" him live for Christ and work for Christ. They will use it as a rod against him. They say, "you come to Church and work and you do good things. Don't worry about it. Everything will be all right. You know God is not going to put you in hell if you attend Church and if you get out and witness a little bit once a week, sing in the choir, and have a Sunday School class. Don't worry about it. Everything will be all right. You see, God is not going to put a man in hell when he is doing these wonderful works." I was taught that stuff! It is terrible and that is just part of it. The true believer does not have any fear of hell because Jesus Christ defeated death and hell in the grave. He does not have to spend his lifetime in fear. I can back it up with Scripture, Hebrews 2:14. It is kind of like warning somebody. You know, they do something and they almost get caught and they say, "Boy, I am going to have to watch that and not do that anymore. You see, after awhile, that fear they had is all gone. And the enlightenment and lust is there again. And he does it again and again until the mighty wrath of God comes down and cuts them off. Or until the wrath of God and the cup of indignation is full. Hebrews 2:14 "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil." Christ had power to defeat the devil and deliver those who through fear of death for all their lifetime were subject to bondage. God saved them. God delivered them from that terrible thing. But the freewillers use this as a rod.

I had a brother that everytime he got in trouble he would run to an organization of some kind and go into it. After the heat was

off, he was right back out doing the same old thing, over and over again. When he got in trouble, he would run into the so-called "church" and men would use this as a rod against him, to damage his soul. Old Satan is behind all of that stuff. How many mistake the fear of wrath to come for a hatred of sin. Because of the wrath of God, they get busy and work like little beavers. And it is not doing them a bit of good. This fear may last a lifetime. It may last a long, long time. And, dear people, the effect may never wear off. Satan deceiving the mind (II Corinth. 4:4-6). It may never wear off. Satan has them chloroformed.

Many people will mistake the stirring of the emotions for the Spirit quickening. They will get all emotionally worked up. A lot of people sit down and watch TV and cry. I am not a very emotional person. Maybe I should not say things like that. I don't cry outwardly very much. I cry inside. My mother died, but I felt like I was going to burst. Oh, she knew how I loved her because I held her in my arms when she died. I hated to see her go. She knew it. I kissed her. I am not saying emotions are wrong. I see people cry when they come to Christ. I see people laugh. I laughed and cried when God saved me. And I saw some with no emotions whatsoever on their face. Oh, but God saved them!

But you see, a lot of people see this in these Arminian meetings and they will go to them and say, "See there, the Lord wants to save you. Come on. I will walk down the aisle with you, I will kneel with you. You want to be saved. You know you do. You can feel it now." They will take advantage of that, you see. They are encouraged to the mourner's bench. They sob over their sins. Oh, but what about divine sovereign grace. Oh, it goes much deeper than natural works! It goes much deeper than just the affections of the old flesh. When the divine sovereign grace of God and the Holy Spirit deals with the hell-deserving sinner, his soul will weep. His heart will cry out. He will say, "I am so unworthy. I am so unworthy of eternal salvation. I see Christ dying and suffering under my sins." I am talking about the deep sovereign working power of the grace of God in the depths and soul of a sinner. It is not just on the surface, my dear people. You see those people cry at these meetings. The next week you will see them down the road drunk. Living like a dog all week, when just a few days before you saw them crying and weeping at the altar. I see people play records, hymns — that's good. I like them if they are good scriptural songs. They will just cry. It makes them feel good. The old devil has got them another 24 hours. Old Satan has put a little more chloroform to their head. He knows, you see. He's deceived them another day. After a while, they will get the old songs out again. You see, Satan deceives.

Any born-again believer should be ashamed if they go to any singing convention. Shame on you if you go. You don't have any business being there. These people think they are doing something for God. They talk about singing the gospel. Where did Jesus Christ sing? Oh, where did our lovely Saviour sing? He went out to the Mount of Olives. In the midst of His

church! His glorious church! I am going to sing, it is going to be in the Lord's church. That's where I am going to sing.

There's another group the Jesus will say, "Depart from me, ye workers of iniquity; never knew you." How many of them will mistake a false peace for a true one. Yes, there is false peace. He's been terrified by hell, fire, and brimstone. Preachers look right down at him. He thinks "that was for me. He told me only to believe John 3:16. He'll say, 'He loves the world. You are part of the world. Can you believe that?' Then they will take him Romans 10:13, 'Whosoever calleth upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.' 'Whosoever,' says I put your name in there. Call upon the name of the Lord and everything will be all right. That is Arminianism, you see. They have a false hope. Satan has drugged their consciences once again into hell. "Clean yourself up," some will say, "and don't sin anymore. Do the best you can. Go to all churches. Believe every man. If a man stands up, he is all right. It doesn't make any difference where you go or what you believe, just as long as you are doing it." Oh, but dear friend, is a glass of poison. Have good intentions. It will still kill you. You can have good intentions and read the label on it and drink it and end up dead! I am telling you people, this false doctrine is a terrible thing. It is like putting a gun to your head and blowing your brains out.

There is no difference in it. It is a slow, agonizing death, this false doctrine! They are bragging about it. They are beating on their chests and what is Jesus saying to them in Matthew 7: "Depart from me ye workers of iniquity, I never knew you!" How many mistake self-assurance. They think well and they hope well. Oh, I tell you, don't care how well you think of yourself. It is better to be in the Lord Jesus Christ.

What about the Apostate King, King Saul? He began having a glorious esteem of himself. Read I Samuel 9:21. How many make a promise in the solid ground of their faith and they look no further than the letter of it. They don't look for a spiritual application. The Jews were deceived by the letter of the law. Why? Because they never saw the spiritual ministry of Moses. They never saw the ministry and work of Moses. Multitudes are deceived by the letter of promises. What do you mean by that? In Acts 16:31, Romans 10:13, Luke 15:17-18, Acts 16, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" What did He tell him? "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." Paul did not leave it there. He explained it to him. That man asked, "Sirs, what must I do?" That's the letter of the law.

The prodigal son, when he came to himself, said that even the servants in his father's house ate better than he. He was eating corn husks. That was not made for a man's belly. He said, "I will arise and go to my father's house, and say unto him, Father I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son! Make me as one of thy hired servants." Well, he had not completely learned yet, had he? He couldn't be a hired servant. Why? Because he would be paid. (Continued on Page 7 Column 1)

When life knocks you to your knees, you are then in the best position to pray.

BIBLE CONFERENCE HELD NOV. 23-24

The Calvary Baptist Church of Hagerstown, Md., hosted a Bible conference on Nov. 23-24. It was my privilege to be a part of this fine conference. I truly thank the church for inviting me and the Lord for enabling me to be there. I travelled to and from the conference with Peter Halliman and Jimmy Swindell, two very fine members of our church here. We had very good fellowship on the trip.

Brother Boswell is pastor of the host church, and did a marvellous job of making us all feel welcome and of conducting the conference. He is a very fine man and an able expounder of the Word of God. I count it a privilege to know and fellowship with him.

Calvary Baptist Church is a very small church, but one would never know it from the magnificent way in which they hosted this conference. Food, lodging, and accommodations for the services were all wonderful. This church is one of the great churches in America today, and I urge our readers to pray for them, and to visit them if you are ever in their part of the world. They are friends and

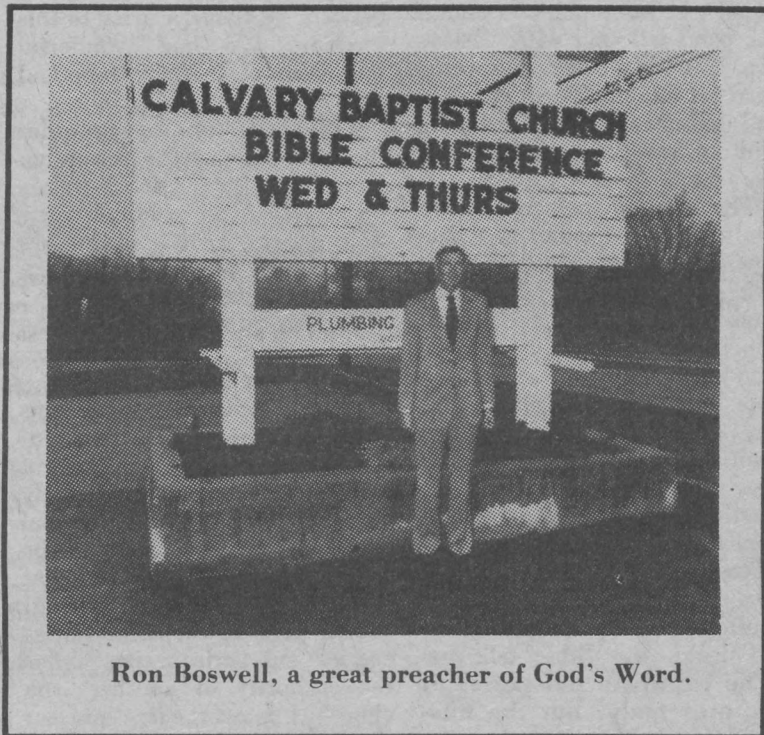
supporters of our work here.

The following brothers preached at this conference. Owen Croy, Dan Phillips, Dean Elzy, Peter Halliman, Don Pennington, Ron Boswell, Kenneth Leonard, (the latter two of the host church), and this editor. Brother Dick Haynes of Charidon, Ohio led the singing. Sister Alma Waddel of Warren, Ohio played the piano, and several special songs. All the singing, and preaching seemed to have the blessing of the Lord and was truly a blessing to all who attended. One could go on and on in naming the different blessings received at this conference. I think one of the greatest blessings of this conference (as it is of most I have attended or hosted) is the great fellowship between those of like precious faith. What a joy it is to see, at different conferences, those with whom we have become acquainted in different places. This has been for a long time one of my chief reasons for attending, and chief blessings received at conferences.

Brother Boswell asks that I inform our readers that this

church plans a conference next year at Thanksgiving and urges all our readers to make plans to be with them. It will be a rich blessing to your soul to do so.

I ask our readers to pray much for this young and small church and its very able pastor. May God bless them greatly in every way.



Ron Boswell, a great preacher of God's Word.

Missionary To
New Guinea
Eld. Fred T. Halliman



FRED T. HALLIMAN

Send your offerings for the support of Brother Fred T. Halliman to:
New Guinea Missions
c/o Calvary Baptist Church
P.O. Box 71
Ashland, Kentucky, 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 36, Tari, via Mendi,
Papua, New Guinea.

EXAMINE

(Continued from Page 6)

a wage. You see, even the prodigal son, until God completely gave him the divine revelation and dealt with him, was looking upon the grounds of work to satisfy and please his father. I don't care if you work for ninety years, if God is not in it, you will be totally doomed forever in a lake of fire.

Jesus is the letter of the law. He established the law for us. We are in Him. So they see the old box, but they never lay hold of the precious Christ that is inside. The angels talk about the chest and desire to look inside it, but they never see the inside. Let a man examine himself to prove that he is in the faith. That is now, the present time. What Jesus spoke is in the future. "Depart from me ye workers of iniquity, I never knew you." These classes of people I just named are going to hear those terrible words one day. Christ is going to speak that to them. Oh, people, examine yourselves this day, I beseech you!

you with all spiritual blessings. Andy Proctor, Ft. Bliss, Tex. ***

Dear Brother Wilson, Greetings in the name of our wonderful Lord and Saviour, who has called us to preach the precious Word of God, and blessed us so richly in His love. I want to express my thanks to Him, that giveth every good and perfect gift, for you and The Baptist Examiner and for what it has meant to my life over the years. To my knowledge it is the only paper still being published that has consistently stood for the truths found in the Word of God over the years. In a world filled with wickedness, whose desire is to fulfill the lust of the flesh, that hates our Lord, His Word and His people, The Baptist Examiner still shines forth as a light in the midst of the darkness of this present evil world. Thank you, Brother Joe and Brother Harry Danner for coming and being a guest in our home. Our prayer is that God will continue His blessings on you both, and that He will continue to send forth His truths to His people through The Baptist Examiner.

Reggie Moore, Springville, Ala.

Helverston, Heiskell, Tenn. ***

Dear Brother Wilson, I enjoy The Baptist Examiner so much. I am enclosing \$100.00. Please use half of it for Peter Halliman and the other for The Baptist Examiner. Yours in Christ, Iris Stevens. Winter Haven, Fla. ***

Dear Brother Wilson, We have especially enjoyed the last two issues of The Baptist Examiner on articles relating to the church and Brother Sam Wilson's article on Limited Atonement... It is so good to read and know that somewhere other believers hold and teach these precious doctrines... Keep up the good work in your editing. The Baptist Examiner. Sincerely, Mrs. E. V. Wilkinson, Carlsbad, N.M. ***

Dear Brother Joe, I'm enclosing an offering for Brother Halliman's emergency. I wish I had more to send as I'd like to send an offering to The Baptist Examiner. I enjoy your paper so much. We are praying for all of you. In Christian love. Mrs. Roy Hollowell, Rocky Mount, N.C.

BOOK REVIEWS

We have two new books in our book store. We have GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT by Ronald E. Baxter. This is a paperback book of over 250 pages. It is a very thorough discussion of the totality of Bible teaching on the subject. This book shows the errors of the Charismatics (glorified Holy Rollers) in the fantastic claims they make relative to possessing gifts that have ceased to be. Mr. Baxter discusses the different lists of the gifts, and each gift separately. A major contribution of this book is in identifying the gifts. I question the author's dealing as to gifts that remain in the churches today, but confess that I need more study on this point. This book will make a valuable addition to the literature on the sub-

ject. It sells for \$8.95 and may be purchased from our book store. Remember, the profit goes into our ministry.

We also have a book, "John's Wonderful Gospel" by Ivor Powell. This is a hard back book of over 400 pages. It is different from most commentaries on John. It gives instructive comments on each section. The homiletical suggestions and helps throughout the book will be valuable to the preacher in sermons on John, and will be helpful to others as they study the book. This book can be purchased through our book store. It sells for \$12.95.

Through our book store we offer "The Church In The Hop Garden" by John Stanley. This is a paper back book of over 250 pages. This is a history of an old Baptist Church in England, from before A.D. 1481 until 1935. This shows us the existence of a Baptist Church (there were many) before the Protestant Reformation, and before the different dates that are often erroneously assigned for the origin of Baptists. Here is another in the long line of witnesses to the historicity of true Baptist Churches from the time of Jesus Christ to the present. The book gives the stories of many of the pastors of this church. It is very interesting and informative. You may order the book from our book store. The price is \$10.95. The profit goes into the ministry.

We have a book of poems for sale through our book store. This book is by a long time friend of our church, our work, and this pastor: Sister Kathryn Parrish. This dear Sister has a great talent for writing poetry. She is very sound in the truth of God's Word, and her poems often read like a work of Theology. Most, if not all, of these poems have appeared in The Baptist Examiner in the past few years. They will be a great blessing to all who read them. The book is a paper back of 44 pages. It sells for \$2.50. I would like to see all the friends of the truths we believe have one of these books.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Maranatha Baptist Church of Glendale, Pa. is in great need of a pastor. They state that they are of like faith and order with our church here. They say that they are sound on Bible doctrine and will not accept the doctrines of so-called Baptist churches in the area. They ask for a true, Bible-preaching, God-fearing preacher. One who is interested may contact the Church secretary, Mrs. Hester Fowler, Rt. 3, Box 230, Smithfield, Pa. 15478. Pray for this church in its search for a pastor.

AN APOLOGY

In an editorial recently, I referred to some who have gone to Post-trib, to Priesthood of the Church, to Hardshellism on the gospel, to A-Millennialism. It is true that some have gone this route. However, it is also true that some who have adopted the Post-Tribulational doctrine have not gone into the other doctrines mentioned. I should have made this clear in my writing. I did not mean to imply that all Post-tribs also held the other teachings...

NOTICE CONCERNING HALLIMAN EMERGENCY FUND

We have passed the \$6,000 goal which I set for this fund. I praise God for answering prayer in this matter and for sending what has come in for this fund. I want to thank all of you, churches and individuals who have helped Brother Fred Halliman in this great time of need. May our Lord richly reward you — and He will.

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
JANUARY 28, 1984
PAGE SEVEN

WHY I LIKE THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

The reason why I love T.B.E. is because God's precious Word is preached therein, and I truly love God's Word. T.B.E. presents the word of truth in a way which is glorifying to God, and He deserves all the glory. God has chosen us to be conformed to the image of His Son, and I praise His holy name! I praise His glory. TBE helped me realize the heresies I used to be involved in. I urge everyone to take heed to God's Word which is taught in T.B.E. God's Word is glorified in T.B.E. rather than the error spoken of in many of the so-called churches. May the One who is able to keep us unto the day of redemption bless

APPRECIATED LETTERS

Dear Brother Wilson: I am sending my yearly gift of \$50.00. Hope that it will help a little in the Lord's work. I have been receiving The Baptist Examiner since the late forties. I think that it is the best and truer to God's Holy Word, than any paper published. It was the cause of my leaving the Southern Baptist, and becoming a Sovereign Grace Landmark Missionary Baptist. I thank the Lord Jesus Christ that He had this to open my eyes that I might see right from the wrong... May God bless you in His work. Your Brother in Christ Jesus... A.D.

When a person is wrapped up in himself, he makes a very small parcel.

TUNE IN TO THE CALL TO CALVARY

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

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

The Seventh Commandment
by Medford Caudill
Goshen, Ind.

"Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14).

Adultery, along with other sex sins, is a common sin of our time. America is obsessed with sex. Sex education is in our schools. Sex magazines are sold in all kinds of stores. There are few movies or television shows made without sex in the plot somewhere. Sex is used to sell everything from cars to Diet Pepsi.

Our laws encourage sex sins. Not too many years ago adultery was illegal in most states. Now many states allow any act that is desired to be legal, as long as it is between, "two consenting adults." States even encourage adultery by such laws as no fault divorce.

God will punish sin even if man will not. The hue and cry at present is for something to be done about A.I.D.S. disease. I will give you a sure cure for A.I.D.S., herpes, syphilis, and gonorrhea. All these diseases would be eliminated in one generation if every man and every woman were virgins when they married and then never had a relationship with anyone other than their spouses.

God's way is for one man to be united with one woman. This was so from the very beginning of time when God took a rib from Adam and fashioned Eve. "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). Jesus himself said: "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Mark 10:9). God's way is the best way. For a marriage to work two people have to be totally committed to each other for life.

As with all of the commandments, breaking this seventh one also breaks several others. It breaks the eighth commandment for if you steal a man's wife or a woman's husband you have stolen the most precious possession they have. Adultery breaks the tenth commandment. How could you commit adultery unless you first coveted your neighbor's wife or husband? It breaks the ninth commandment for lying is always part and parcel of adultery. Show me an adulterer and I will show you a liar.

Adultery is an awful sin. There is no reason or excuse for it. Certainly if you are a Christian you will have no desire to run around on your wife or your husband. The Bible says of a whorish woman: "Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death" (Proverbs 7:27).

How do we prevent adultery? The Bible has the best solution. First of all, it tells us, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Ephesians 5:25). A man needs to give his wife the affection she deserves. A woman is an emotional creature. She

needs to be told she is loved, and she needs to be shown she is loved. You're not much of a man if you can't tell your wife, "I love you." Be nice to her. She works hard all day cooking, cleaning, and taking care of the kids. Any kind of work or gesture from you will be greatly appreciated.

The second way to prevent adultery is also found in Ephesians. "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord" (Ephesians 5:22). According to God a woman must submit herself to her husband. A woman will never be happy or healthy until she does this. It is your responsibility as a wife to subordinate yourself to your husband. If women would follow the Bible rule of submission there would be far less adultery.

Thirdly, the Bible tells us: "The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency" (I Corinthians 7:4, 5). Sex is a wonderful thing when it is between two people bound together in holy wedlock. It is a wonderful gift from God. Fire is a wonderful and useful thing, but it has to be contained to benefit mankind. If fire is let out it will burn everything in its path and destroy all that stands before it. It is the same with sex. It is a wonderful thing when contained within the bounds of the marriage relationship. Once it gets outside those bounds it destroys everything connected with it.

As Christians let us strive to keep our lives and bodies pure. Let us restrain ourselves from adultery, fornication, lust and all other sex sins.

Our life is like a river,
Flowing restless to the sea.
We must ask ourselves the question,
Where will we be eternally?

The river washes its bed of stones.
Its bed of stones of sorrows.
And shines them, white like bones,
To be better seen tomorrow.

On a cross made from a tree,
Christ's blood was shed for me.
He wrote in blood my name above,
From sin I should be free.

While the river washed the stones bright,
Flowing onward to the sea.
Jesus came the world to light,
From sin's darkness we might see.

My sad heart was as a stone.
One night Christ came to me.
My heart melted like a honey comb,
When He showed His light so free.

Ervin Perdue
Detroit, Mich.

ORDINATION AND ORGANIZATION SERVICE

It was a great honor and joy to me to participate in the following service at (or near) Burnsville, W. Va. On October 29th, I travelled to West Virginia for special services. It was a blessing for Peter Halliman and myself to travel with pastor James Hobbs, Doug Newell, and Carl Carter to this meeting. We had wonderful fellowship on the way there and back.

This special service was under the authority of the Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Warren, Ohio; and conducted by their pastor, Don Pennington. This is truly a great church with a very able pastor.

At this special service, Brother Carl Barnette was ordained into the gospel ministry. Also the mission there was organized into a true and independent Baptist Church of our Lord Jesus Christ. Surely these two matters are of special importance in the work of the Lord, and such services are always times of special blessing.

It is good to see these things carried out Scripturally, under the authority of another true church. I detest the free-lancism that goes on so often today under the guise of doing the Lord's work.

Brother Barnette was carefully questioned as to his salvation

experience, his call to the ministry, and his doctrinal beliefs. I have never heard any candidate do a better job in answering these questions. Surely, the new church has a very sound and able pastor, in that they called Brother Barnette to be their pastor.

Brother Don Pennington led the service. Brother Ray Brown, of Indore, W. Va. delivered the

charge to the church. I was honored to deliver the charge to the preacher. The whole of the ordination service was a great blessing to all.

After the ordination, the mission was organized into a true church by the authority of the aforementioned church. It is always a great blessing to me to witness the birth of a church. Brother Barnette has labored



Members and faithful attenders at the new church.

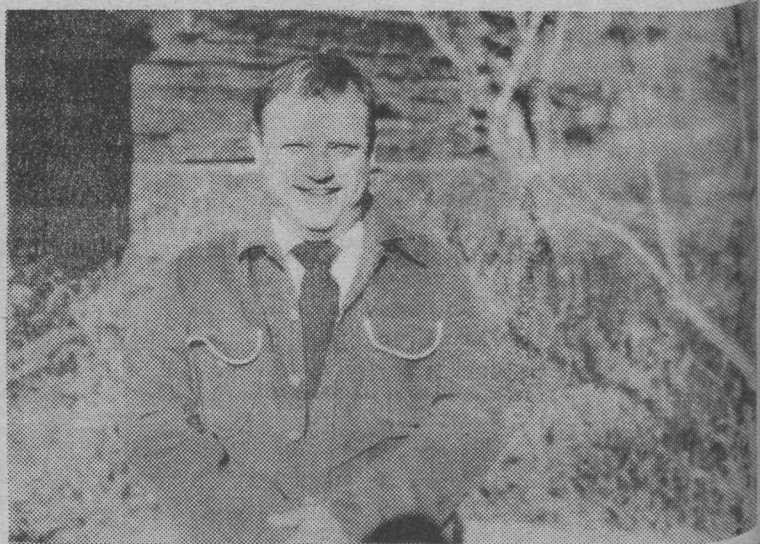


The questioning committee.

long and faithfully in this seeming wilderness part of the world. God has blessed his efforts, and now there is a church there.

Please pray much for Brother Barnette and for this new Church that God will richly bless them, and use them to His glory.

After the services we were fed a bountiful feast in the home of the pastor. Some acted the part of gluttons, but yours truly ate very moderately. The whole day was a day of rich blessings from the Lord, for which we truly praise His name.



Elder Carl Barnette, who was ordained and called as pastor of the new church.

DRUNK DRIVING MURDERERS

If I were to go down town, and start firing a gun wildly in all directions; I would be placed in jail — that is where I should be. If a person drives a car while under the influence of strong drink, he should be placed in jail. It would be an easy thing to curtail, almost to the point of non-existence, death by drunk drivers, if we would recognize such for what they are — murderers — and deal with

them accordingly. Put them to death! Then, take drunk drivers, even when they do not kill anyone, and put them in jail for a long time. No fine. No getting off. In jail, where they belong. It may be that those who could put a stop to this are too sympathetic with drunk drivers, or they may be guilty themselves. We need to rise up and do battle on this issue.

The editor