

False peace is unwilling to be tried by the Word.

## THE COMING OF OUR LORD

by John Alber  
Farmers Branch, Tex.

The Apostle John records for us the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, "I will come again," John 14:3. No other subject finds so much wealth of general information concerning its truth and yet there seems to be so much confusion regarding what the Bible teaches. WHY? Perhaps I Corinthians 2:14 might be an answer to that soul-searching question: "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14). The Apostle Paul has simply said that the Natural Man (the unsaved person) can not and will not understand the things of God.

There are four basic views regarding the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The first three are totally false and should be rejected by God's people. First, **THE A-MILLENNIALISM**



John Alber

**VIEW.** A - means NO and hence they teach that there will be no 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ on this earth; rather, he is now reigning in the hearts of

true believers. They are Covenant Theologians for the most part and follow the Allegorical method of interpretation. It is their opinion that because Israel rejected their Messiah, God has given to the Church the promises He made to them hundred of years before.

Second, **THE POST-MILLENNIALISM VIEW.** Post means after and hence they teach that the world is getting better and better by the preaching of the Gospel. Thus our Lord will not return until after man has brought about peace for a thousand years. This is Arminianism to the core. It was Nebuchadnezzar who learned the hard lesson that it was God who controls the affairs of this old world.

Third **PAN - MILLENNIALISM VIEW.** This godless (Continued on Page 6 Column 3)

## JESUS: THE PRINCE OF PEACE

by Merrel Kaley  
Simi Valley, Calif.

In this glorious text, the angel sets forth the much-awaited and longed-for "news" of the birth of our Saviour and with His birth — peace!!! In Isaiah 9:6 this babe of Bethlehem is given five names, one of which is "The Prince of Peace".

At this writing U.S. troops along with police and troops of six Caribbean nations have invaded Grenada. Also, the news from Beirut, Lebanon gave the chilling and sad tale of the massacre of 250 or more American Marines, and upwards of 45 French soldiers — all these young men were "peacekeepers"! A special was shown on T.V. across this land of a young lad simply titled "Adam", in which the ugly and terrible story of the kidnapping and murder of this young boy of 6 and the slaying of many others along with "thousands" that are missing. Peace? Hardly! A look into the distraught faces of the parents of these children, the mothers of the Marines, the families of the liberators of Grenada, cry out the sad anguish: There is no peace! In the face of all this, how do we recognize and resolve the angel's announcement, when seemingly there is no peace?

1. The Prince of Peace was rejected! A study of God's Word, the Bible (we Baptists make no apology for saying unequivocally that the Holy Bible "is" God's word-not just "contains" God's Word) in the Gospel of John 1:1, 10, 11 reveals that Christ was God (Vs. 1), and that He came unto His own (Israel) and they "rejected"



Merrel Kaley

him!! Israel rejected Him as the Saviour and lost Him as King. In John 18:39, 40, we hear the shrill cry of the Jews (led by the priests) "Give us Barabbas," not Jesus! How our heart hurts within us as we read these accounts! We read in Luke 23: 21, 23 how His own cried out for His death, and not only death, but the cruel and shameful death of being hung upon a tree! Hear them, "Crucify Him, crucify them," (Continued on Page 6 Column 1)

MISSIONARY      PREMILLENNIAL      BIBLICAL      BAPTISTIC

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

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## THE NOBLEST ROMAN

by Ray Hiatt  
Fort Myers, Fla.

"When the centurion heard that, he went and told the chief captain, saying, Take heed what thou doest: for this man is a Roman. Then the chief captain came, and said



Ray Hiatt

unto him, Tell me, art thou a Roman? He said, Yea".

Act 22:26-27

"This was the noblest Roman of them all".

Julius Caesar, Act V, Scene 5  
Shakespeare

After my baptism the Lord impressed me with a great desire to study the Word as fully as I could. I had no books or aids and little money. I went to a Bible book store in Lexington, Kentucky, and with a few dollars sought help. The cheapest study book available was a small volume entitled "Paul" by Edgar Goodspeed. This I bought and treasured through these many years. Goodspeed was a Presbyterian, but quite an able historian and scholar and through his small book, and New Testament studies, I learned to love Paul as I shared his adventures for Christ.

We all develop affections and perhaps prejudices through early studies, and it was so with me as I followed the travails and joys of the Apostle. If my affection for Paul is greater than for that of others of our brethren (Continued on Page 5 Column 1)

## SOME THINGS GOD CANNOT DO

by Kenneth Leonard  
Hagerstown, Md.

"Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or even Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God... The Lord He is God; There is none beside Him" (Ps. 90:1, 2; Deut. 4:35).

In the light of these verses, the subject of this message may sound a bit unscriptural. There are many false gods, but there is only one true and living God - Omniscient, Omnipresent, Omnipotent. He holds all power in His mighty hands and yet, there

are some things God — cannot do, simply because He is God.

1. God Cannot Die:

"From everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God."



Kenneth Leonard

How long is everlasting?  
(Continued on Page 3 Column 5)

## ARE ONLY BAPTISTS SAVED

by James F. Crace  
(Now in Glory)

We find it necessary to state without reservation that we do not believe the doctrine of "THE PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST'S BAPTIST CHURCHES." Nor do we hold to the false idea that only sound Baptists are saved. We have known too many non-Baptists and too many false "Baptists" whom we are convinced, as much as anyone can be convinced, are trusting Christ as their Savior, even though we see them lacking in their understanding of much of the truth of God's Word. And we find them opposing themselves in many of their

positions on many of the true doctrines. Yet their profession of a faith in Christ and Christ only as their Savior is such that we cannot dispute it without presuming to know what is in their hearts. Such knowledge of the heart is reserved to God alone.



James F. Crace

We have searched in vain to find it said in God's Word that only true Baptists are saved. Just as we have searched in vain to find that even all true Baptists will be found believing all things alike. God does not give all of His children the same amount of knowledge. Nor does He give any of His children a perfect understanding of all of His Word. There has always been (and will continue to be) disputes about some of the doctrines of God, even among His true Baptists.

Nor do we find taught in God's Word that He has said He will make true Baptists of all of (Continued on Page 3 Column 2)

## The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Joseph M. Wilson

## FALSE PREACHER: SHUT UP

"But ye are forgers of lies, ye are all physicians of no value. O that ye would altogether hold your peace! and it should be your wisdom" (Job 13:4-5). The wisest thing that many preachers could do would be to quit preaching. It would be their wisdom to shut up, to get some other job, and make an honest living, instead of continuing preaching the lies they do. It would be a great blessing to our land if many, even a vast majority, of its preachers would leave the ministry. I know that this sounds hard, but stay with me awhile, and let us see if this be true.

Let us look at the above Scripture in its context. Job was suffering greatly. Three friends came to visit him in his great

suffering. However, instead of proving their friendship, they began to make charges against Job. They charged that such suffering as his proved that he must be a great sinner. Their false charges added greatly to Job's suffering. Job accuses them of forging lies against him, and failing to give him any comfort in his suffering. He urged that, instead of forging their lies, they would hold their peace, stating that this would be wisdom on their part. We can learn some lessons from this matter. We ought to have compassion towards those who are suffering. We ought to be very slow to judge such, especially to accuse them of some great sin as the cause of their suffering. We had best leave such matters to the Lord, while we seek to be all

the comfort we can to the sufferer.

After giving this proper and contextual interpretation to this Scripture, I believe we can apply it to the matter of false preachers. Let me explain what I mean by "false preachers". One who is preaching but has not been called by God to preach, might be called a false preacher. I believe adamantly in a call from God to the office of preacher. I believe God will make it known to the soul of the man if he is called to preach. I do not believe that men should take up the work of preaching without a definite call from the Lord to do so. We have entirely too many man-called preachers in the world today. Anyone who is preaching who was not (Continued on Page 2 Column 1)

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JOSEPH M. WILSON, Editor

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## FALSE

(Continued from Page 1)

definitely called by God to do so is a false preacher. But that is not the kind of false preacher to which I refer in this sermon. Although I will say that many non-called preachers will also fit what I am talking about in this message.

In this sermon, by false preacher, I am referring to that one who preaches false doctrine. For my part, I will not say that all men who preach some, even much, false doctrine were never called by God to preach. Please understand me here, I do emphatically say that God never, never called a man to preach false doctrine. I do not say that God never called a man to preach who may be preaching some false doctrine. For instance, I will not say — not in a million years — that God never called Matthew Henry, Jonathan Edwards, David Brainerd, etc., to preach. I will say that God never called them to preach and practice infant baptism. I hope I am making myself clear as to this matter. By "false preacher" in this message, I am referring to the preacher — called of God or not — who is preaching false doctrine. Let me make one other point clear. I believe that there are many preachers who are preaching so much false doctrine that they should quit preaching altogether. It would be their wisdom to do so. There are others who are preaching some false doctrine — I do not say that they should shut up altogether — but that they should shut up on those matters wherein they are not preaching the truth. Please keep these matters in mind as you proceed with this message.

Preaching is extremely important. It is a very serious matter. When one stands before men, and professes to speak for God to them, that one has taken the position of the greatest importance in all the world. God has never given any man a higher

honor, a greater privilege, a more important task than that of preaching the Word of God. It is of the utmost importance that the man who professes to preach the Word of God to his fellow man really preaches God's Word, and not the false doctrines of man and devil. Someone says, "So, you are a preacher, how nice." Wait a minute. Is it really that nice? That all depends on what the man is preaching. It is the greatest thing in the world to preach the truth of God's Word. It is the most terrible of crimes against God and man to take the place of a preacher and preach false doctrine to others.

I cannot over-emphasize the seriousness of this matter. The man who professes to speak for



Joe Wilson

God, and speaks a lie, is guilty of great sin before God. It is enough to make the God-called preacher tremble greatly — the awesomeness of his responsibility to God and man. It is enough to cause the preacher to fall on his face before God, and beseech the great and awful God to preserve him from ever preaching error. Oh, may our tongue cleave to the roof of our mouth — may we be struck forever dumb — may we lie silent in the grave — before we preach false doctrines to the sons of men. It is a grievous sin to mislead men in the things of God. It would be bad to give a man false directions and cause his death. It would be bad to prescribe for a sick man the wrong medicine, especially should that wrong medicine cause his death. How much worse it is to give a man false teachings as to the Word of God, when such often leads to his eternal ruin. This matter of preaching is the most serious and important matter in the world. Let us beware of preaching false doctrine.

False preachers, preaching false doctrines are preachers of lies. My text says, "ye are forgers of lies." False preachers are guilty before man and God of breaking the ninth of the ten commandments of God. Despite what the antimonians say, men are still under obligation to obey the ten commandments. Surely, no one would even pretend that it is all right to break the ninth commandment. Still every man who preaches a false doctrine is guilty of lying. I emphasize this. False preacher, you are a liar. There is nothing to be gained by softening our language here or by making excuses. The preacher of false doctrine is lying. The fact that the preacher believes that the Bible teaches the doctrine he is proclaiming does not change the fact that he is lying. This is why the preacher should be very careful what he preaches, should be very sure that he is telling the truth, should cry to God for wisdom in understanding and proclaiming the Word of God. I dare say that, on any given Sunday, there may well be more lies told by preachers, told from the pulpit, than anywhere else on

that day.

Not only is the preacher of false doctrine lying, but he is lying about the most important matters in the world. The preacher says you must be baptized to be saved. He is a liar. He is lying about salvation and salvation is the most important matter in time and eternity. The preacher sprinkles water on a baby's forehead and says that he is baptizing that baby. He is a liar. He is not baptizing anyone. He adds to his sin of lying in that he does it in the name of the Triune God of the Bible. The preacher says you can lose your salvation. He is a liar. He is lying about God, God's Word, and God's salvation. Do you see what I am saying. The preacher of false doctrine is lying and lying about the most serious, sacred, and important matters of time and eternity.

Who can compute the tremendous consequences in time and eternity of the lies which preachers tell from the pulpit? See him there. The preacher in the pulpit. He stands there as a man of God sent by God to declare God's Word. He tells you that he is speaking to you God's Word. Then he preaches his false doctrine. He lies to you. Oh, what a sinner is the liar in the pulpit! And hear me again, the fact that he might believe he is telling the truth does not change in the least the fact that he is preaching a lie, and is guilty of lying before God and man.

Note that, according to my text, the preacher is "a forger of lies." Where does the preacher get the lies he preaches? Not from the Bible, oh, no! There are no lies in the Bible. The man who preaches the Bible is preaching the truth. When a man preaches a lie, he is preaching that which he forged in the laboratory of his own depraved mind or got from the mind of another liar. The preacher of false doctrine does not get what he preaches from the Bible. He forges it himself. He may misuse some portion of the Bible to endeavor to prove the false doctrine he preaches — but he simply lies again in doing this. He may teach that salvation is all up to the so-called free will of man. This is a lie. He may mis-use Revelation 22:17 to prove his false doctrine. He lies again in doing this, for that Scripture does not teach any such doctrine. That Scripture teaches that the thirsty sinner who is willing is invited to come to Christ for salvation. It does not tell us where that thirst and willingness comes from. We know, from other Scriptures, that this is the work of the Holy Spirit of God. The false preacher preaches a lie that he has forged himself, then adds sins to sin by mis-using some Scripture to prove his false doctrine, thus guilty of a two-fold lie.

Beloved preacher friend, those things which we preach which come from our own forgery are surely the lies of Satan. It is not our duty to forge for ourselves what we preach. There is a Divine forgery. It is the Blessed Word of God. It is the duty of the preacher to go to this Divine forgery, to learn by the teaching of the Holy Spirit, what is forged in the Bible, and then to preach these truths to others. And how much more blessed is this! Instead of forging our own doctrines, we receive the doctrines forged in the Word of God and preach them. Praise God, I do not have to invent or manufacture my own doctrines. I only have to learn what is taught in the Bible, and preach that.

In my text, the preacher is compared to a physician. How important the physician is! What a noble and honorable profession is that of medicine! How needful and blessed to mankind! But the preacher is a physician of the soul, and he is much more important than one who can only minister to the physical ailments of men. As the soul is more important than the body, so much is the preacher more important than the doctor. All honor to doctors and nurses. Thank God for each and every one of them who is seriously seeking to minister to the bodies of the sick. God forbid that I should speak a word against such. But I must and do declare that the job of the preacher is of greater importance.

A preacher of false doctrines is a physician of no value. The

lies which he has forged in his own mind, and dares to preach as if they were the truths of God, are of no value to his hearers. The preacher's job is the most important in the world. He is the most important man in the world by virtue of the fact that he claims to speak for God and is usually received by his hearers as such. But when that preacher does not declare the truth of God — when he preaches false doctrine — he is of no value at all. Better that the building had been closed. Better that the audience had stayed home rather than been exposed to and influenced by the lies of the preacher.

Not only is the false preacher a physician of no value, he is worse — much worse — than that. Someone is sick. Call the

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## FROM THE EDITOR

Calvary Baptist Church is a great church. God has given this church the lead in two great mission works. I refer to The Baptist Examiner and to New Guinea Missions. We thank God for these two mission works and desire to do the best we possibly can in them. We, at Calvary, do verily know that we could not carry on either of these works without the help of a multitude of individuals and churches. We, in prayer here, often pray for those who help us in these works.

Some events of a few years past greatly injured these two mission works. Those involved in these events must give account unto God for such. We leave this with the Lord. Efforts were made to totally destroy these two works, but God intervened, and the works continue today. However, both works have been seriously hurt.

I believe that God had a purpose in defeating the efforts to destroy these works. I believe that God has a purpose in continuing them. I believe that there are many readers of this paper who feel the same way. I believe that there are many who would like to see these two mission works recover to the point they were at at one time, and even, God willing, go beyond that. I further believe that God is able to do this. I also believe that, if God does this, He will use human means in so doing.

I have been here for some time now. I have observed things, and come to some conclusions. I believe that God's blessings upon us are the main thing. But, speaking as a man dealing with human things, I believe that the one thing that would help to bring the two mission works referred to back towards, to, or past their former condition is to greatly increase the number of recipients of The Baptist Examiner. I feel that we need many things here, but I feel that this is a need of the greatest importance.

I do not mean, necessarily, to put The Baptist Examiner ahead of New Guinea Missions. But I do know that a very large amount of the support for New Guinea Missions comes through and because of The Baptist Examiner. This has been true from the start of N.G.M. and continues so. I further do not mean to put N.G.M. ahead of T.B.E. in importance. I am just illustrating and emphasizing what I am trying to say in this editorial. I know I did not realize this before I came here as I do now, and feel that many of our readers do not realize this.

I am saying that the greatest single thing we who are friends of these two mission works can do to help either or both of them is to increase the number of recipients of The Baptist Examiner. The paper, in and of itself, is a great mission work and well worthy of Baptist support. It is sending truths far and wide — truths that very few other papers are teaching. Surely, it is a great mission work to send this paper to as many as possible. But in addition to this good and desired result of increasing the number who receive this paper, surely to increase that number would result in increased support for New Guinea Missions. I might add that to increase the number who receive this paper would likely increase the attendance at and the good results of our annual Bible Conference. In fact, I verily believe that doing this would result in great blessings in many directions and ways for the precious truths we believe and to those who believe them.

The Baptist Examiner has been, and continues to be, a great blessing to many individuals and churches. I could not name the people who now believe the truth, the preachers who now preach the truth, or the churches now in existence through the influence of this paper. Their number is surely legion. In fact, many who are now our enemies, if honest about it, would have to admit that they have received great blessing through this paper.

I am appealing to those who are friends of this church and her mission works to help me build up the number who receive this paper. I do not believe you could do a greater single mission work than to do this. We need added support. We would like so much to return to once a week publication. We need, greatly need, more sound men writing for us. But above and beyond these, we need more readers. Will you help in this? I appeal to individuals, to preachers, and to churches to help in this matter. Send us subscriptions, give us readers — we will give them the truth — and only God knows what the blessed results might be.

I would like to double the number of readers of this paper in the near future. Will you help me? Is the paper a blessing to you? Would you not like to see others have that blessing? From the time of this editorial through the time of our Bible Conference, we will give subscriptions for one dollar each to all individuals or groups who will send in fifty or more subscriptions. This will not even begin to cover the cost of the paper and sending it forth, but we will bear the added cost and look to the Lord to provide for us. Will you help us?



## FALSE

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doctor. The doctor comes. He examines the patient. But, oh, he mis-diagnoses the condition. He prescribes the wrong medicine. The patient is not bettered, but rather worse by the prescribed medicine. In fact, the patient dies because of the wrong medicine prescribed by the physician. The preacher is a physician of the soul. The soul is in desperate need. The false preacher prescribes a false medicine. The sinner takes that medicine and dies and goes to hell. Not only has the false preacher been a physician of no value he has been one of great and eternal hurt. Not only is the patient no better, he is much worse, even eternally ruined.

Physicians, who prescribe the wrong medicine, which medicine reacts to the harm of the patient, have often been sued for malpractice. Oh, my beloved, the majority of preachers in the land today should be sued for malpractice in the matter of their preaching of lies to the children of men. The doctor should be very thorough in his diagnosis. He should be very sure in his prescription of a remedy. Much depends upon him. Surely, the preacher should be even more careful and sure in the spiritual remedies he prescribes for the sin-sick soul. The preacher who preaches false doctrine is guilty of malpractice. Though he may never be called upon to give an account thereof to the courts of this world, what will it be when he is called to appear before the court of heaven?

Now, according to my text, the best thing a false preacher can do is to shut up, to quit preaching, to leave the ministry, to quit the pulpit, and take up some other line of work. The text says that for the false preacher to hold his peace (shut up) would be to his wisdom. It would be an act of the greatest wisdom for a large number of preachers to shut up and never again open their mouths in the pretence of preaching God's Word. It would be to their wisdom because they would no longer be speaking lies. Better be forever silent than to be a preacher of lies. They would no longer be dishonoring God by their false preaching. False preaching does insult, and highly dishonor God. It is a terrible thing for a man to get up and tell other men that God said what God never said. This dishonors God. More preachers dishonor God every Sunday by the lies they preach, than honor God by preaching the truth.

It would be to the wisdom of many preachers to shut up because they would no longer be doing great and irreparable damage to the souls of men. Many preachers are blind to the truths of God's Word. Their hearers are blind, also. But the blind hearer thinks that the blind preacher can see, and follows that blind preacher into the pit of hell. False preacher, shut up. You may not help others by your silence, but at least, you will not harm them by your lies. If the preacher of false doctrine would shut up, he would not have to answer to God for preaching his lies. Let us look at a kindred Scripture, "Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise.." (Prov. 17:28). False preacher, shut up, and you will not have to answer to God for preaching lies. If you will shut up, men will never know you to be the

false preacher, and you will not do untold damage to the souls of men. False preachers, do yourselves and the world a favor, shut up.

Now my text may well apply to all who seek to instruct others in spiritual matters. Though one is not a preacher, he may seek to instruct others. Let such be sure that he has learned from the Bible, and is teaching the truth, lest he fall under the same condemnation as the false preacher.

Let me say a word to the hearer. You have the responsibility. The fact that the one who professes to be a preacher is preaching false doctrine does not excuse you if you receive such. You are to take heed what you hear. You are not to sit under the ministry of the false preacher. You are to get rid of the false preacher, or go to a place where the truth is preached. The preacher is responsible to preach the truth. The hearer is responsible to hear the truth.

Another word, it is a terrible sin for those who support false preachers. You who attend false churches. Who furnish an audience for the false preacher. Who pay a living to the false preacher. You are guilty before God and man for your support of the lies that such a false preacher preaches. The man who supports, by his presence or his means, the preaching of false doctrine is joined in guilt with the one who preaches such. Oh, what an important matter is this! How each one of us should be very careful lest we participate in the sin and guilt of the false preacher!

False preacher, shut up. Let the Arminian shut up. Let the Holy-rollers shut up. Let the Campbellites shut up. Let the false preacher shut up. He will be better off by doing such. So will those who would have heard his lies be better off. Hear me, false preacher: shut up. May God bless you all!

## ARE

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His elect people. We read in Luke 9:49-50, "And John answered and said, Master, we saw one casting out demons in Thy name; and we forbid him, because he followeth not with us. And Jesus said unto him, Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us." In the Book of Acts we also read of Apollos, meanwhile there was a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, who came to Ephesus. He was a cultured and eloquent man, well versed and mighty in the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and burning with spiritual zeal, he spoke and taught diligently and accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he was acquainted only with the baptism of John. He began to speak fearlessly and boldly in the synagogue; but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him with them and expounded to him the way of God more definitely and accurately.

Apollos knew the truth about salvation by the blood of Christ, but he did not know the truth about the necessity of the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit in saving His elect; neither did Apollos understand the special indwelling of the Holy Spirit in a church sense. There is a sense in which the Holy Spirit indwells every saved person, to witness to that saved person that he is a child of God. There is also a special sense in

which the Holy Spirit indwells the members as a body that make up one of Christ's link-chain Baptist Churches. That is why true Baptists understand the doctrines of God more clearly than those who falsely call themselves Christ's churches.

Priscilla and Aquila taught Apollos the truth, both about salvation and doctrine of the church, including the necessity of having authority from one of Christ's Baptist Churches, before one can truly glorify God. After being taught the truth, there is no doubt that Apollos united with Christ's church at Ephesus. According to verse 27 he went on to Greece with authority from the church at Ephesus. In Acts 19, Paul could not concede the idea that any one could be saved without even hearing about the Holy Spirit, (nor can we). Paul preached the truth to the twelve mentioned, and after they were saved they were re-immersed by authority of one of Christ's churches (probably the Ephesus church). In like manner, we true Baptists will do the same thing regarding anyone who does not show evidence of a true knowledge of salvation. We will also not be lax about Scriptural Baptism. We will let it be known that we accept only link-chain Baptists baptism. Not only that, but we expect a person's baptism to be properly administered by authority of a truly link-chain Baptist Church. And that there are times when people are to be re-immersed is revealed in Acts 19.

God has never said He will honor His Word only when proclaimed by a true Baptist. He has said He has given authority to do His work to His true Baptist Churches. When we speak of salvation we speak of God, the Holy Spirit, causing one to hear the truth of salvation by the blood of Christ, and causing him to repent of his sins, and causing him to trust Christ as his personal Savior. In another place, Paul said some preach Christ out of contention, not out of a pure heart. He also said that did not matter to him, because Christ was preached. It is the gospel that is the power of God unto salvation; and it is God Who must give salvation to whomever He pleases. We are persuaded that God can and does save some through the truth that He causes men who are not Baptists to preach.

Even in the time that Christ was here on earth there were those who walked with John the Baptist, rather than with Christ. The truth is that all of God's elect are born again into the family of God, and out of His family God adds some to His Baptist Churches. Just as God gave the work of the Tabernacle to only the tribe of Levi, in like manner He has given authority only to His link-chain Baptist Churches to scripturally do His work. This does not mean that He will not use anyone else to accomplish His work. God is free to do as He pleases, and who are we to say He cannot use whom He pleases to do some of His work.

We do say that one must be saved and Baptist baptised and a faithful member of one of Christ's Baptist Churches (He has no other churches) if he is to be found scripturally walking with God. Also rewards for true and faithful service will be given only to those whom God causes to be faithful Baptists. We do not deny that ignorance of church truth is no excuse; nor do we deny that it is a sin not to be a faithful member of one of

Christ's link-chain Baptist Churches. But we have learned both by the Scriptures and experience that not all saved people are in true Baptist Churches.

We do say that the Holy Spirit indwells only His true churches in a manner by which He causes His true churches to rightly discern His Word. That is why non-baptist and false Baptists are found so many times opposing themselves and teaching foolish doctrines. They do not have the special indwelling of the Holy Spirit to lead them into "all truth." Every saved person has the Holy Spirit Who witnesses with their spirit that they are children of God; but those saved people whom God adds to His Baptist Churches have a special indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and are thereby given a certain understanding and discernment of His word. Therefore, it is said that Christ's assemblies are "The pillar and ground of truth."

So we say again that all the saved are in the family of God, but all the saved are not in Christ's Baptist Churches. Thus there will be guests at the wedding of Christ and His bride, which is His church. When we use the word "church" in this sense we refer to all of Christ's local assemblies, which make up the collective body of Christ.

When we are told that Christ loved and died for His EK-KLESIA (Assembly) we ought not be like the Campbellites, who jump to the conclusion that that is all the people He died for! Of course He died for His church, but He also died for the rest of His elect who are not added to His churches. You see, then, that all of God's elect will be saved, but not all of the elect have been given the privilege of being a part of God's army, which is made up of His true, local link-chain Baptist Churches. All others who take it upon themselves to do God's work are working without a commission from God. In fact, they are walking in rebellion to God's Word.

Being saved does not automatically give one authority to do God's work. A saved person must be scripturally baptised and added to one of Christ's link-chain Baptist Churches, before he can be said to be walking in obedience to God.

The commission to make disciples and baptise them was given only to Christ's link-chain Baptist Churches; and that is the only place Christ put His authority. However, I repeat in closing that God can and does use other than Baptists to do some of His work; namely, saving some of His elect. It is the gospel, empowered by God, the Holy Spirit, that saves an individual. And since God is free to do as He pleases, I will venture to say that He can use any means to preach the true gospel to the saving of some of His elect, if He so desires.

(Copied from THE BAPTIST PREACHER).

Editor's Note: This is a great message by Brother Grace, and I certainly agree with it in the main. I do have questions relative to his position that the twelve in Acts 19 were not saved. But, as he says, this shows us the fact of re-immersion. I would say that, whenever one's Baptism is doubtful, he should be re-baptized. I believe that a saved person becoming a Baptist is more a matter of his responsibility than just an act of God's sovereignty. I do believe that there are rewards given to other than Baptists, though many of the brethren disagree

with me on this. I simply do not understand the author's saying that, "those saved people whom God adds to His Baptist Churches have a special indwelling of the Holy Spirit." I believe that a true church is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. I believe that every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. I do not believe that a Baptist, as an individual, has any special indwelling of the Holy Spirit. I do not understand what the author means by, "When we use the word 'church' in this sense we refer to all of Christ's local assemblies, which make up the collective body of Christ." Whatever he does mean by this, I am in disagreement therewith.

Please do not think I am opposed greatly to this article. If that were true, I would not have printed it. I just felt I should add these notes. On the whole it is an excellent article. I believe, with Brother Grace, most adamantly that the gospel is used by the Spirit in regeneration, that the Holy Spirit might use that gospel to regenerate no matter who preaches it, and that there are many people who are saved who are not Baptists. I praise God for the author's strong stand on these matters. The Baptist Examiner is a Baptist paper, but it will never teach the awful heresy that only Baptists are saved, so long as I have anything to do with it, and please God, never. May God bless you all. It was a privilege to know and have some fellowship with the author of the above sermon.

## SOME

(Continued from Page 1)

There are no measurements or calculations of time whereby man can answer that question. The finite mind cannot conceive the meaning of everlasting. The never-ending existence of our God is something we will never understand in this world.

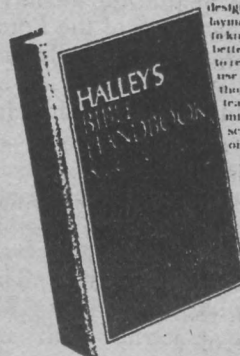
Isaiah tells us, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the Heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8, 9). Job tells us that God "Doeth great things past finding out: yea, and wonders without number" (Job 9:10).

Look up — Look as far as your eyes can see toward Heaven. You can see the sun (which scientists tell us is 93,000,000 miles away); we can see the stars (some of which, according to science, are farther

(Continued on Page 4 Column 4)

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# The Baptist Examiner Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

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

Is wearing the name "Baptist" essential today to being a true church?

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Deacon  
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We see from the Scripture that the word "Baptist" was first used by the Holy Spirit to identify a man called John. In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea... (Matt. 3:1). We are told that this man, John, was sent from God, "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John" (John 1:6). His mission was, "...to make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (Luke 1:17). John said, "...but he that sent me to baptize with water..." (John 1:33). This shows us that John's mission from God was to preach and make ready a people by baptizing them. From Acts 1:33 we find those who first made up the church which Christ built had all been baptized by John. This means that they all had Baptist baptism. All true churches came from this first church, therefore each member of these churches had Baptist baptism.

The only churches in existence during the New Testament period were the church at Jerusalem and those which came from her, therefore it was not necessary to call them Baptist churches. Satan and men had not yet started their many churches.

Down through the Dark Ages the true churches were called by various names, yet if a true church, their baptism was Baptist as it must link back to John the Baptist.

For the last three or four hundred years, the true churches have used the name "Baptist" as one of the identifying marks of a true church. It is true that many false churches today have taken the name "Baptist", like the seven women of Isaiah 4:1, "...let us be called by thy name to take away our reproach."

For a church to be one of the Lord's churches, she must not only hold the doctrines of the Scripture, but her members must have baptism which links from church to church back to John's baptism, which was from God.

This means that for a church to be a true church of the Lord, her members must have Baptist baptism, therefore, could she be anything but a Baptist church? If it is a Baptist church, why call it something else? Why give up a God-given name for some man-given name? To do this would be the reverse of the seven women of Isaiah 4:1. The church would be saying, "We want your doctrines but we don't want your name, lest we bear your reproach."

I have very serious doubts to a church being a true church if she refuses to use the name Baptist. There must be something wrong in her makeup. Christ said, "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words — of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed..." (Mark 8:38). Would this passage not apply to one who is ashamed of the name which God had given?

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Proverbs 22:1, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches..." Surely, the appellation "Baptist" is a good name for the Lord's churches. The designation Ana-Baptist was given to the Lord's people, and His churches out of the obdurate spirit of their enemies (Romanism and Protestantism). The vicious enemies of the Lord attached to His churches the name Ana-Baptist, a stigma which they thought would accelerate the demise of those contemptuous churches who held that the mode of baptism was immersion and for believers only. But while they meant it for evil, God meant it for good, and the name has never served as a stigma to those who know the truth. Having dropped the prefix "Ana", the name "Baptist" has become a superlative which has surpassed all the names which the Lord's churches have been known by.

While I cannot say it is absolutely essential that a church have the name Baptist in order to be a Scriptural church, I certainly cannot understand why any true church, with the least knowledge of church history, would even think of deleting or omitting the name Baptist from their church designation.

I know we are living in an era when every church that uses more than a cup of water in administering the ordinance of baptism(?), notwithstanding the fact they are replete with error, are called Baptists. But this should not deter us from identifying ourselves as Baptists, for every good thing the Lord has given His churches the devil has tried to steal it.

In this evil day Baptists may have to use an X number of adjective prefixes and suffixes in connection with the name Baptist, in order to let the religious public know, and more particularly the so-called Baptists that we are not of their stripe. One hundred years ago the name Baptist over the door of a church building spoke volumes to the very great majority of those passing by. Sadly, it is not true today, but that is no reason to forsake the best or as good of a name the Lord's churches have ever had.

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A true New Testament church must be (in fact will be) a Baptist church. (Please understand, just because an organization wears the name "Baptist" does not automatically make it a true church, but a true church will be a Baptist church). I realize that there are some who claim that a church does not have to have the name Baptist in order to be a true church. Let me make it perfectly clear that I do not acknowledge, nor will I fellowship with, any so-called churches that are not Baptists.

When Jesus started His church it was a Baptist church. God the Father gave us the name when He sent John to prepare the material for the church. Some people seem to think that because he is called John the Baptist in such passages Matthew 17:13 that his name was John Baptist. My friends, his name was John. "And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John..." (Luke 1:63). Again we are told his name clearly in John 1:6. "There was a man sent from God, Whose name was John."

Almighty God in His Word makes it clear that he is called "the Baptist." John prepared the way for the Lord. John baptized the apostles and prepared the material out of which our Lord started His church. The name "Baptist" is given to us from God. Let us not remove it but stand firm behind it.

I am thankful that God has saved me and then given me the added blessing of putting me in His church. I am a Baptist because God has made me one and I am not ashamed of it. Anyone that is ashamed or wants to remove the God-given name is not a true Baptist and should get out.

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Matthew 16:18: "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

There is nothing more important to the child of God than to find the church that Jesus started and unite with that church through baptism, and then serve God in and through that church till death do them part. I did not say church is the most important thing to all men; I said it should be the most important thing to those who are truly saved. The difference in

being in a true church and not being in one; is the difference between a life of service to the glory of God and a life of missed and wasted opportunities. It is the difference between the losing and the receiving of rewards. It could be the difference between being in the bride of Christ and being a guest at the wedding. Surely, if what I have said is true, then it is very important that all saved people seek to be in a true Church of Jesus Christ.

Now, to deal with the question that is at hand. In this day and time, I would not recognize anything that does not go by the name Baptist. Now, let me clarify this statement by telling you what I am not saying. I am not saying that true churches have always been called Baptist. I am aware that true churches were called Waldenses, Novations, Petrobrusians, Arnoldists as well as many other names. These were often times, names given to them by their enemies. In times past, I would not say they had to wear the Baptist name to be a true church. I also am not saying that everything which wears the name Baptist today is a true church. I dare say that most societies today that call themselves Baptist are not true Baptist Churches. Those that are steeped in heresy such as Arminianism and those which were started by men and not another true church should not be recognized.

I would not recognize a church that did not wear the name Baptist today. The reason being, I know of no reason why a true church would object to the Baptist name unless they objected to the historic Baptist position and theology. The only other reason I could see for a basically doctrinally sound church to refuse the name Baptist is either Pharisaical or egotistical. I thank God that He, by His grace has made me a Baptist. May He make you one, too!

## SOME

(Continued from Page 3)

away than the sun), and yet, God's Word tells us that God's ways and thoughts are just that much higher than our ways and our thoughts. That is the reason the finite mind cannot understand the everlasting eternity through which God will live.

God's calendar and time clock do not travel in accordance with our estimation of time. Man deals in years, God deals in centuries. Peter tells us that, "One day with the Lord is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day" (II Peter 3:8).

Our Scripture says that God is everlasting to everlasting. That means that God has always been, He has always been God, and He will continue to be God through the everlasting ages of eternity ahead.

"Let God be true, but every man a Liar." I often have people ask me who and what to believe. If these dear folk will read from their Bibles they will know what to believe, for God cannot lie. I confess that books put out by the liberals and modernists and by denominational bosses are confusing — but the Book, dictated by the Holy Spirit and penned down by Holy Men of old will eliminate confusion.

Paul said with confidence, "I know whom I have believed..." (II Tim. 1:2). If we know whom we have believed, then we will as a matter of

course know what to believe.

I confess that this old world is in a terrific state of confusion in so far as religion is concerned. New sects are springing up almost every day and others are changing their doctrines and programs. But the blessed Book and its Author remain the same: Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). Religion will confuse you — but God's Word Promises.

"Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious and He that believeth on Him shall not be confounded" (I Peter 2:6). "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but God's Word will never fail" (Matt. 24:35).

Christians are not tossed about by every wind of doctrine, they do not change their religion every time a new preacher comes to town. I talked with a man the other day who told me that he had been a Catholic for several years and then he became a Presbyterian and served as a deacon for several years. He then realized that he was keeping the wrong day of the week for worship, so he became a Seventh Day Adventist. It stands to reason that the next crowd that comes along with something He likes will be the crowd he will join. It really would not make any difference, because it doesn't hurt an empty bottle to change the label on it.

I am a Landmark Baptist Preacher. I thank God for my Church. I thank Him for what a true Church has done for me. But I shall never cease to thank Him for Jesus, the One who bought my redemption with His own precious blood. God, who cannot lie, holds out to us these promises:

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28).

"Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of Life. He that cometh to Me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst, and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:35, 37).

You may say, Brother Leonard, I do not understand that? We are not supposed to understand it, my friends. We are to take it by faith. "...The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).

In this day men are saved and kept by faith which comes by hearing the Word of God. And the Word of God tells us that God cannot die. He is from everlasting to everlasting. Our loved ones must die, if Jesus tarry. Sometimes we are called upon to stand by the open grave of the one dearest to our hearts — and Paul tells us that death will be the last enemy to be destroyed (I Cor. 15:26). But praise God, death cannot rob us of our God, for He has power over death, hell, and the grave. Before the mountains were, He was. And when the mountains have been moved out of their places, when "the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (II Peter 3:10). Our God shall be, our God will still be, and He will still be God. He cannot die.

That is the reason that we who know God as our Father and Christ as our Saviour can boast of everlasting life. We are born of an everlasting Father.

(Continued on Page 5 Column 1)



Such as pretend to have light or revelation above the Word, or contrary to it, never had their teaching from Christ.

## SOME

(Continued from Page 4)

We have become His everlasting children. Our earthly life will pass unless Jesus comes for His own during our natural lifetime; but praise God, we who are born of the Spirit have everlasting life because our Father in Heaven is from everlasting to everlasting.

2. God Cannot Lie:

"God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath; that by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie. We might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us" (Hebrews 6:17, 18).

"...In hope of eternal life, which God that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Titus 1:2).

Thank God, we have the promise of eternal life from God who cannot lie. We are living in a day when men think very little about lying. It bothers them not at all. They have even lied about the Word of God, twisting it to prove their own points or religion or their denominational beliefs. But our God cannot lie — and that is why Paul tells in Romans 3:4: "Verily, Verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my Word and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24).

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. He that believeth on Him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the Name of the Only Begotten Son of God" (John 3:16, 18).

Thank God, we can depend on every statement and promise that came from the lips of the Lord Jesus. Many times when I am reading and studying the Word of God, I discover a new promise to the saved ones — and I confidently stand upon that promise taking it as my very own.

God cannot lie, and I know His promises are sure!

## NOBLEST

(Continued from Page 1)

chronicled in Holy Writ, it is due to my early reading in the Word and with the aid of Mr. Goodspeed's small but rich offering.

As I studied the life of Paul through the years I became impressed that his life was quite similar in many ways to a worldly great man who preceeded him in that part of the world by a few years....Marcus Brutus. I marked these similarities, and yet saw the one salient difference between the two; Paul was a man of grace, while Brutus, with all his high abilities, remained a man of the earth.

These two men, so much alike and yet so different, can serve to illustrate the difference which grace makes in a life. The parallels in their lives may serve to instruct us. Rendering honor to whom honor is due, as enjoined in Scripture, let us lift the above title from Brutus, and apply it in truth to one far nobler than Brutus....Paul the Apostle. Since our Lord honored Paul, it will not be thought

amiss if we too shall honor him. He was indeed, "The noblest Roman of them all".

There are parallels in the lives of Scriptural personalities which yet, so contrast that we see them as representing life or death, grace or destruction, heaven or hell. Cain and Abel, David and Saul, Moses and Pharaoh immediately spring to mind. Their differences were as varied as their personalities, but one marked difference distinguished them. The one was a man of grace, while the other was of the earth...earthly. As we see them side by side in Scripture, their distinctions so typify God's sovereign selection that we marvel that men could read the Bible, even casually, and not see election with clarity.

There is no one in Scripture with which to directly contrast the blessed Apostle, so I have chosen Brutus, as Plutarch describes him to us, to show the difference which grace makes among quite similar men.

Both Brutus and Paul were of course Romans; "free born", Acts 22:28 as Paul puts it. Beyond this we see many parallels. Both Brutus and Paul were intellectuals and both were able scholars. Both were gifted linguists. Both Brutus and Paul were great epistle writers. The epistles of Brutus are many volumes in size. Brutus had an extensive correspondence, and he infrequently wrote in Latin but most usually in Greek. Paul, of course wrote Greek epistles, under inspiration, which make up a goodly portion of our New Testament. Both Brutus and Paul had great and noted scholars for their early instructors. Brutus was taught by his Uncle Cato, the Roman philosopher, while Paul sat at the feet of Gamaliel, one of the most reputed teachers of the ancient world.

The most striking factor in the lives of each was that they were both devoted and ruled by a deep reverence to LAW. Brutus held the law of Rome in such esteem that in the civil war between Caesar and Pompey he sided with Pompey even though Pompey had murdered his father some years before. He felt that Pompey was an upholder of the Law of Rome and that Caesar was usurper. Until the Damascus experience the man who came to be called Paul was devoted body, soul, mind and heart to the LAW OF ISRAEL. He viewed Jesus Christ and his "way" Acts 9:2 as a usurpation of that Law. He became the most violent defender of the Law, even unto the persecution of the disciples of the Lord.

Then, too, both men were dedicated and sincere in what they were about. No one ever questioned Brutus' sincerity and his loyalty to Rome. Even Anthony who defeated him in battle at Philippi said that his motives were pure when he slew Caesar.

Both Paul and Brutus manifested an overwhelming zeal in their defense of Law. Plutarch relates that Caesar attested to Brutus' zeal by saying, "I know not what this young man intends, but, whatever he intends, he intends vehemently". Brutus was so zealous in his duty that Plutarch says, "he was admired by the best men, and hated not by his enemies themselves". He further states, "he was steady and inflexible to maintain his purpose for what he thought right and honest". Compare this with the zeal of Saul of Tarsus in defense of the Law he thought was right. We read that he,

"made havock of the church, entering into every house and haling men and women committed them to prison" (Acts 8:3), and "breathing out threatnings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord" (Acts 9:1). Both Brutus and Paul were sensitive men but neither hesitated to employ violence against those they saw as usurpers of the Law they revered.

Brutus was well traveled and a chronicle of his journeys is almost like following the steps of Paul in Acts. We see Brutus visiting such places as Pamphylia, Philippi, Cyprus, Cilicia (where Paul was born), Sardis, Asia, Bithynia, Athens, Macedonia and many others. Brutus traversed these areas in defense of Roman law until his death. He never changed because he was never changed by God. His devotion to the world empire Rome ruled dominated him from his first intelligent consciousness until death. In all the lands where the Christian gospel was later carried by Paul, Brutus saw only empire status and dominion of worldly administration. Plutarch gives a curious reference to the travels of Brutus when he says that Brutus sent his army into Asia and he himself left Bithynia to settle "and confirm all the cities". How similar this is to the work of Paul when it is said of him and Silas, "And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches". Brutus had a great and tender care for the captive cities of Rome, while Paul did a similar work but unto the living bodies of Jesus Christ. Both Brutus and Paul worked the same field a few years apart, but the one reaped nothing but emptiness, while the other saw a great harvest of souls for his Saviour. Earthly and eternal, and so the contrast goes between these very similar Roman citizens.

Brutus was highly favored by the ruling classes and worldly administration as Paul was. Caesar was so impressed by the devotion and integrity of Brutus that after the civil war with Pompey, even though Brutus fought against him, he made him governor of Gaul. Paul was granted letters from the chief priests at Jerusalem to take action against any of the "way" of Christ and so journeyed to Damascus. Both of these Romans impressed men in power and they were both used by governmental administrations as enforcers of their particular Law; Brutus the Roman and Paul the Judiac.

Both of these men easily inspired devotees to their cause. The administration of Christian persecution could have been entrusted to many men but the Jewish rulers awarded it to Paul. Though the Scripture doesn't say it PRECISELY, we must suppose that they saw in Paul sufficient ability and skills to represent them in bringing Christians to task for their supposed heresy. Mark well the political conditions of that day. Judaea was an occupied territory. The Jews found it necessary to move with care and guile against their enemies lest they anger the Roman authorities. A man of very high abilities was surely required to persecute the Christians and at the same time to tactfully avoid overstepping the bounds of political propriety which the Romans enforced with death. It is frank supposition, but I think allowable that they must have seen in Paul a fit instrument to

execute their wrath and at the same time skillfully avoid political complications. Supposition or not they followed Paul's request, just as the conspirators at Caesar's assassination followed Brutus and would follow no other than he. Both Brutus and Paul had the power of persuasion to sway men to their will.

There is no comparison between Julius Caesar and our Lord Christ, but, in the minds of both Brutus and Paul they both were injurious to the Law they followed so vehemently. Therefore they sought to slay them both. Would any deny that Paul's intention was to totally extirpate the very name of Jesus Christ by eliminating His followers? Our Lord himself said that Paul was striking at Him when He asked the blinded Saul, "why persecutest thou me?" (Acts 9:4). It was Christ himself that Paul was striking at just as Brutus struck at Caesar.

Both Brutus and Paul were unselfish in their lives. Neither sought reward or honor. They gave all for their cause. Even their enemies never accused them of pursuing earthly rewards. Those who opposed them always opposed them on their public stand and none ever questioned their personal integrity and honor.

Let us now follow both these men to the end.

Plutarch records of Brutus, "About the time that they were going to pass out of Asia into Europe, it is said that a wonderful sign was seen by Brutus". What this sign was Plutarch reveals, "Thus one night before he passed out of Asia, he was very late all alone in his tent, with a dim light burning by him, all the rest of the camp being hushed and silent; and reasoning about something with himself and very thoughtful, he fancied some one came in, and looking up towards the door, he saw a terrible and strange appearance of an unnatural and frightful body standing by him without speaking. Brutus boldly asked 'What are you, of men or gods, and upon what business come to me?' The figure answered 'I am your evil genius, Brutus; you shall see me at Philippi.' To which Brutus, not at all disturbed, replied, 'Then I shall see you'".

After this vision Brutus proceeded to the plains of Philippi to do battle with Anthony and Octavious and there met his death. The vision that called him to Macedonia was a true prophecy.

We read in Acts 16:6-10 that a Spirit and a vision also guided Paul on the road to Philippi, but by grace, with quite different results. "Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, after they were come to Mysia they assayed to go into Bithynia; but the Spirit suffered them not. And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him saying, Come over into Macedonia and help us. And after he had seen the vision immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them".

Brutus brought death to Philippi with his sword and his armies and he found death there on that war ravaged plain.

There he ended. At Philippi. But, at Philippi of Macedonia the gospel ministry of Paul the Apostle had a striking new beginning. Here the gospel to the Gentiles shook off any mere Oriental identification and was brought unto Europe. From thence it spread through Greece, unto the isles of the sea, to Italy, to Gaul, later to England and Scotland and hence through the process of time it came unto me. Yet, the European ministry which has transformed my life in this land began that day in Philippi when Paul preached the gospel to the lady by a river side where Brutus some few years before had ministered death and suffered death.

Both Brutus and Paul came to Philippi led by a vision. To the one the vision ministered death, but from the other the godly vision ministered an eternal life unto that place and unto us of God's elect to this day. Brutus came to Philippi in splendor following his Law. Paul, by grace, had years before been delivered from the curse and death which the Law ministered and had transcended the Law by union with Christ by blessed God-given faith.

At the death of Brutus even his enemies wept. They saw in him a nobility of spirit and a force of character which even his arms arrayed against them could not dispel. They admired him in life and in death, for he sought not his own glory but the glory of something of a higher order. Antony said, "this was the noblest Roman of them all". And so ends Brutus, a man as great as any among whom men reckon greatness. He ends at Philippi. He began his public career on Cyprus where Paul began his mission journeys. Yet, his flesh and great mind led him no further than Philippi.

Of Paul's end we have no record. I reject Catholic traditions which record his execution in Rome. We are spared the details of his death. Yet, of one thing we can be assured, he died as he had lived — FOR CHRIST. Be his death savage or gentle, he died for his Saviour and in his Saviour's favor.

How can it be that two men who were so strikingly similar, who walked the same paths, visited the same cities, saw the same lands, moved among much the same peoples and conditions, and were so alike in personality and character, could be so different in the trust and the end of their lives? If intelligence and force of purpose and character could save a soul, then both Brutus and Paul would have been saved early on. But it cannot be. Brutus and Paul walked the same paths of the ancient world, but they moved in two different spheres. Paul had been translated from the world of Brutus BY GRACE. Here, then, is the answer to every question which men can put.....BY GRACE. This is the final and closing argument.....BY GRACE.

Without plagiarism I believe that we can borrow Shakespeare's words and cloak our Brother Paul in them and say that of all the Romans of which we know, he by grace, was "THE NOBLEST ROMAN OF THEM ALL".

Ray Hiatt  
Fort Myers Shores, Fla  
January 4, 1984

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PAGE FIVE



# PRINCE

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Him" (Vs. 21) and — "And they were urgent with loud voices, requiring that He might be crucified, and the voice of them and of the chief priests prevailed" (Vs. 23). We are further stirred by the treason of one of the "insiders", a member of his own company, one who had walked at his side, slept under the stars protected by his grace. One who without doubt had eaten of the loaves and fishes and seen his miracles of healing and forgiveness. Rejected by the nation, the "religious" liberals (Sadducees) and fundamentalists (Pharisees), the crowd. (Evidently the same crowd who threw the palm branches in His path only hours before), and now by one of his own group of cabinet members, as it were! Betrayed, and by a symbol of affection, a kiss. Rejected, the very Prince of Peace. Oh, what horrid and horrible sin!

But, let it be here affirmed we are no better than they except for the Grace of God! The elect have nothing to brag about except in the Cross of Christ and what "He" has done. Which preacher out there among the readers has not felt the hot sting of tears coursing down the cheeks from the loss of a member or members of the church over misunderstandings, or of rejection by family members and/or friends over our stand for Christ. Which of you Baptist folk have not been thought to be "strange", even to other so-called Christians? Only recently a brother pastor said to me, "Brother Kaley, I never would have believed so and so would have ever left the church and your ministry, as they 'seemed' so faithful!" But they "did" leave and the feeling of rejection was hurtful and caused great sadness to me and the Lord's church here in Simi.

"He is despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief, and we hid as it were our faces from Him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not" (Isaiah 53:3). It was prophesied that He would be thus dealt with. Our sovereign God said through His prophet Isaiah that it would be so and thus it could be no other way, or else we would all yet be in our sin! The "All Things" of Romans 8:28 is still very much in effect!

2. His peace Has come! God's "forever" peace will come for mankind "only" when "HE" returns to earth for the millennial reign that will be broken at its end by the "Little Season". After this we will be ushered into that which is called "eternity future". Just think, forever and ever and ever, to rule and reign with Him that saved us and to worship Him rightly forever! Wonderful, precious hope! A hope that will be realized!! But first, He had to be rejected — Luke 17:25. "But first must He suffer many things and be 'rejected' by this generation."

Why? That we (The Gentiles) might be saved! That you and I might be engrafted into that tree that belonged to Him. We were always and ever from

everlasting to be so engrafted in! Yea, He loved us, yea, He died for us, yea, He arose from the dead for us, and yea, it was thus necessary that he might be rejected for our sakes. So it is that the perfect physical peace of this earth has to await the end of His "ingathering" of all His elect!

Let it not so much as once be voiced among God's people (let alone among the Baptist people) that peace would or could ever come to this sin-cursed planet apart from the return of the Prince of Peace Himself, even Christ Jesus! And then "only" for the child of God will this peace come. Sad to say there will "never" be any peace for the Christ rejectors. The peace with God, of God, and ultimately the peace that beats swords into plowshares concerns only those saved by God throughout all ages. Praise His name!

To the born-again child of God peace Has come! Oh, we do not mean by any stretch of the imagination that the elect who has been saved is free from problems. No, no, we are cognizant of the diseases that wrack the bodies of even the saints of God. We see that past excesses with liquor and the like sometimes go on exacting their deadly tolls. Moreover, Christians are sometimes robbed, burglarized, murdered, and lose their lives in the many wars that occur in the nations in which they live. There is however a "peace with God" and a "peace of God". It is very important that the Christian "understands" the difference! Scripture teaches that each one of us is or was at enmity with God. This enmity is at direct variance with peace! When in God's marvelous sovereignty we are saved then immediately we have peace with God, to the extent that some have described a wonderful feeling of a great peace coming over them or a great burden lifted. Whenever warring factions are reconciled, then peace prevails! And certainly when in our sin-darkened condition (born in sin) we were at war with God. (Thank God a war that we were predestined to lose and our God would win)!!! So a very real peace with God now exists between God and His saved child, peace that is known and realized by that child even as a young child, who has had an earthly father angry at him, but now knows that father's forgiveness and tenderness in love. Oh, my, the difference!! Would any be so foolish as to say that child could not know, feel, or sense his Daddy's peace with him?? (That is just why the old and new hardshell's arguments fall on deaf ears in my case. Where is that "joy" or that wonderful sense of the peace "with" God in their argument that salvation can be apart from knowledge of that event. Wherein is any joy in an unknown salvation?)

3. His peace will come! Previously, we have dealt with the "fact" that there is a peace "with" God (in the now or present sense), and now we wish to examine that peace that will come (not now available, but in that future sense). First, let us affirm that this planet is destined for "wrath", no way around it, this globe "will" suffer the wrath of a thrice holy God!! Until Jesus himself comes back to this planet as its "king", then there will be no "physical" peace. Scripture saith: "There will be wars and rumors of wars" (Mt. 24:6) until the very end there shall be no peace as men desire it. The Christian,

however, has (past tense) experienced the peace "with" God, and is "now" experiencing the peace "of" God, if so be that he is walking close to his Saviour! There is that peace that indeed passes all understanding. How is it that the Christian can be at such wonderful peace when all around are such problems so as to boggle the mind? Because, beloved, salvation made possible by our Saviour at Calvary, made peace "with" God! Now, with the gift of the Holy Spirit living daily in our lives, the every day continuing peace "of" God will reign in our hearts!

As a Christian, and as the pastor of one of the Lord's true and living churches (a Sovereign Grace Missionary Baptist Church), I am an optimist. No, I have no faith in the abilities of men to, in any way, bring about peace, either in the mind, heart, or in a real physical way. But I "absolutely" know and believe that my sovereign Saviour shall do so. I look for, and yearn for that day when I shall be free, not only from the "penalty of sin," but indeed from the very "presence of sin." Oh, happy day! My hope rests on nothing less than Jesus and "His" righteousness!

I would leave you with these encouraging words; If you are a saved man, woman, boy or girl, then you have peace with God and the peace of God abides upon you "now". And wonder of wonders, someday (and I believe soon) you will be ushered into perfect, physical peace of the "eternal variety". Listen to the moving, soul stirring words of that Apostle John as revealed to him by inspiration of God:

"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and He shall 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, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away. And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold I make all things new. And He said unto me. Write, for these words are true and faithful" (Rev. 21:3, 4).

May the prince of peace reign in your hearts is my prayer for all of God's beloved people. And may God's rich peace and love exist between all of God's Baptist churches!

## COMING

(Continued from Page 1)

position simply teaches that everything will just pan out — don't worry about it. These Theologians seem to overlook the portions of Scriptures that speak about our Lord's coming as though it is not important.

Fourth. THE PRE-MILLENNIALISM VIEW. This portion teaches that the world will wax worse until our Lord Jesus Christ returns to this earth in a literal body to reign and rule on the Throne of David. It will take His return and reign to ensure peace on this earth. Perhaps the best argument for this position is that it interprets the Word of God literally. The rule of Biblical interpretation that they follow is this: "When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense." Amen!

Principles of Interpretation (Hermeneutics) are very impor-

tant in understanding the Word of God. They must be solid before one can ever begin to piece together the teachings of our Lord. In the case of our Lord's return, there is no difference. For those who are Pre-Millennial I find that they interpret the Holy Scriptures literally and try to be honest and logical in their reasoning. It is my opinion that when one fails to use plain, normal, or literal methods of Biblical interpretation that they lose all objectivity. Therefore, we need to learn how to be consistent in our interpretation not only in matters regarding our Lord's return, but in our doctrine.

That brings me to another issue, through it is yet the same. We must make a proper distinction between ISRAEL, CHURCH and the KINGDOM OF OUR GOD.

1st., ISRAEL. These are the children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. To them God gave certain promises that must come to pass. He promised Abraham a seed and a land for that seed for an everlasting inheritance. "As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations... And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God" (Gen. 17:4, 7-8). Cf. Gen. 12:1-3; 17:1-19. Then to King David our Lord promised a King and a Kingdom that would be forever. "And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established forever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever" (II Samuel 7:16). Cf. I Samuel 7:4-17; Psa. 105:9-10; I Chron. 16:16-17. Now all these things could not be unless God performed it according to His Word. Four things are thus promised: A Seed; A Land for the Seed; A King; and a Kingdom for the King.

In the Palestine Covenant of Jeremiah 31, God Almighty has promised certain things that must come to pass as far as Israel is concerned. (1) It is a covenant with the House of Judah and the House of Israel - vs. 31. (2) It is also a Covenant that is contrasted to the Mosaic Covenant - vs. 32. (3) It is a Covenant that promised fulfillment after the days of Jacob's trouble - Jer. 30:7. (4) It is a Covenant that was designed to be superior to the Mosaic in that this one would be written in Israel's Heart instead of Tablets of Stone - vs. 33. (5) When this covenant is put into action, it will bring great spiritual blessings to Israel because she will be publicly identified as God's dear children - vs. 33.

2nd. THE CHURCH. The Church must be distinguished from Israel or else one will have much confusion in trying to understand Bible prophecy. The Church is a New Testament Doctrine and has to do with this present AGE. It was not in the Old Testament, neither does it ever take the place of Israel.

Jesus started His Church during His earthly ministry and will take it out before the GREAT TRIBULATION begins. Israel is a Earthly People who have been promised the world as an eternal inhabitation, whereas the Church is a Heavenly People

who have been promised Heaven as a place of abode.

3rd. THE KINGDOM OF OUR GOD. Some have called this the Family of God and thus, simply mean the redeemed of any age. God has always had a company of faithful people from the very beginning of time. But let's not confuse these three areas or we will have great difficulties in understanding the Word of God in other areas:

Many people attempt to teach the book of Revelation without laying a proper foundation. If the New Testament is hid in the Old Testament and the Old revealed in the New, then we need to properly put them together. A number of chapters in the Old Testament will help us understand the total picture of our Lord's soon return.

First, Ezekiel 37. Second, Daniel 2 and 7. Third, Daniel 9. Ezekiel informs us that Israel is to be regathered first in unbelief and that when God brings them back into the Valley they will be a United Nation. "And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them... And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all" (Ezekiel 37:8, 22). Furthermore, when God performs this miracle Israel will no longer be known as an idolatrous nation, but one who has been cleansed and forgiven - vs. 23. "Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwelling places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God" (Ez. 37:23). When Israel is regathered, God promises that she will dwell in the land of Israel forever - vs. 25. "And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever" (Ez. 37:25). During this time God will establish a Covenant of Peace with Israel for an everlasting Covenant - vs. 26. "Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them" (Ez. 37:26). Then God will be known as Her (Israel) God as He will tabernacle among Israel - vs. 27. "My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (Ez. 37:27). Because of this covenant, Israel will be known among the Nations as the "Blessed of God," - vs. 28. "And the heathen shall know that I the Lord do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore" (Ez. 37:28).

Daniel speaks of the world-wide kingdoms that would be upon the face of this old world. The first being the Babylonian Kingdom which was represented by the Head of Gold — Daniel 2:37, 38 and the Lion with Eagle Wings - Daniel 7:4. The second being the Medo-Persian Kingdom which was represented by the Breast Plate

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## STUDIES IN EZEKIEL

Willard Willis, Monroe, Ohio

"Thou also, son of man, take thee a tile, and lay it before thee, and portray upon it the city, even Jerusalem: and lay siege against it, and cast a mount against it; and set the camp against it, and set battering rams against it round about. Moreover take thou unto thee an iron pan, and set it for a wall of iron between thee and the city: and set thy face against it, and it shall be besieged, and thou shalt lay siege against it. This shall be a sign unto the house of Israel" (v. 1-3.).

Ezekiel, at this time, was unable to talk (3:26). He, however, was still ministering, not by word of mouth, but by symbolism. He was the teacher and the rebellious Jews were his pupils. Their first lesson, or his first sermon to them was portrayed upon a "tile" or a thin brick. The "tile," in fact, was a tablet of soft clay, baked so as to make it durable. It was on a tablet like those on which the Assyrians and Babylonians wrote their private contracts, historical inscriptions and other items of importance. These tablets, in fact, were to the Assyrians and Babylonians as books are to us. There have been large quantities of these tiles uncovered by archaeologists.

Ezekiel was to lay out the city of Jerusalem on one of these tiles. This, of course, was to be done, while the tile (brick) was still soft. Ezekiel, after laying out the city of Jerusalem, proceeded to draw every feature of an actual siege against the city. The portrayal is defined in verse two.

The "mount" (v. 2) can be rendered "mound." Its purpose was to connect the rampart with the walls of the city. Ezekiel, no doubt, in portraying the "camp," portrayed it as being filled with soldiers and battering rams in a position ready to take the city.

The "iron pan," perhaps, had two meanings. It referred to the fact that the Jews would be unable to penetrate the besieging army so as to bring them low and it portrayed Israel's sin which was an iron barrier between God and themselves. Their sin, in fact, was the basis for all of their problems. It was their sins, in fact, which Ezekiel was assigned to rebuke.

Ezekiel's mission was made much more difficult by false prophets who were trying to persuade the people that the invaders would never capture the holy city and sanctuary.

We will do well to learn from the "iron pan" that there is no way for us to conquer our enemies unless God is with us. The city of Jerusalem, for example, was set in an excellent position as far as its defense was concerned, being situated above the surrounding area. A city, or person, however, without God's protection cannot stand.

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain" (Psa. 127:1).

"Lie thou also upon thy left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it: according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon it thou shalt fear their iniquity. For I have laid upon thee the years of their iniqui-

ty, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year. Therefore thou shalt set thy face towards the



Willard Willis

siege of Jerusalem, and thine arm shall be uncovered, and thou shalt prophesy against it. And, behold, I will lay hands upon thee, and thou shalt not turn thee from one side to another, till thou hast ended the days of thy siege" (vs. 4-8).

Ezekiel, when lying on his left side, faced the north and the south when lying on his right side. The oriental habit was to face eastward when indicating the points of the compass.

Ezekiel, when facing the north, looked toward the northern kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of Judah when he faced the south.

One cannot measure the suffering Ezekiel incurred while laying on his side for 390 days (one year and twenty-five days). It is likely, however, that Ezekiel only lay on his side a part of the day or just during the day light hours when he could be seen by his audience. I make this statement because of the fact that the balance of this chapter speaks of him preparing foods.

The three hundred and ninety days and the forty days represented years of suffering which the two captured kingdoms were to endure. It was suffering which Ezekiel prophesied when lying on his left and right sides.

The "uncovered arm" (v. 7) speaks of readiness for battle. This fact is made evident from Isaiah 52:10:

"The Lord hath made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of the Lord."

Today, we have various people trying to set new records. They see how many people can get into a phone booth or into a small car. I challenge them to break Ezekiel's record of three hundred and ninety days on his side.

God, according to verse eight, lay hands upon Ezekiel. I do not believe that such was necessary in order to make him obey, but only to show the house of Israel that they would not escape the affliction which God had assigned to them because of their sins.

The bands speak very loudly regarding the fact that our God is Almighty. They inform us that He always does as He

pleases. It is as stated in the following passage:

"Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My council shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure" (Isa. 46:10).

"Take thou also unto thee wheat, and barley, and beans, and lentiles, and millet, and fitches, and put them in one vessel, and make thee bread thereof, according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon thy side; three hundred and ninety days shalt thou eat thereof. And thy meat which thou shalt eat shall be by weight, twenty shekels a day: from time to time shalt thou eat it. Thou shalt drink also water by measure, the sixth part of an hin: from time to time shalt thou drink. And thou shalt eat it as barley cakes, and thou shalt bake it with dung that cometh out of man, in their sight. And the Lord said, Even thus shall the children of Israel eat their defiled bread among the Gentiles, whither I will drive them. Then said I, Ah Lord God! Behold my soul hath not been polluted: for from my mouth up even till now have I not eaten of that which dieth of itself, or is torn in pieces; neither came there abominable flesh into my mouth. Then He said unto me, Lo, I have given thee cow's dung for man's dung, and thou shalt prepare thy bread therewith. Moreover He said unto me, Son of man, behold, I will break the staff of bread in Jerusalem: and they shall eat bread by weight, and with care; and they shall drink water by measure, and with astonishment: that they may want bread and water and be astonished one with another, and consume away for their iniquity" (vs. 9-17).

The above passages of Scripture show clearly that the action required of Ezekiel was a reproof to Israel's sinful condition and a prophesy of that which was to befall them. God, therefore, spoke through Ezekiel by word of mouth and by example. Some one has well said that one picture is worth a thousand words.

Ezekiel, by way of example and prophesy, was to measure out his daily diet in an orderly fashion rather than dispensing it when his stomach craved it. Such was similar to a small quantity of water being rationed in a desert place.

The "twenty shekels" of measurement was a little over nine ounces and the sixth part of an hin would be a quart or less.

Some have, in error, believed verse twelve to teach that Ezekiel mixed dung with his food. The meaning is that he used dung as fuel for the preparation of his food. Researchers have successfully produced from cow dung a substitute for gasoline. The fuel, in fact, which has been produced from cow dung burns much cleaner than gasoline.

God's purpose in having Ezekiel use dung to prepare his food was to show Israel the extent to which their sins had polluted them. It was also to inform them relative to the heathen conditions to which

they were to be subjected (see Hosea 9:1-5).

It is interesting to observe from verse fourteen of the chapter before us that Ezekiel was more concerned with his soul than he was his taste. May we also consider our soul to be far more important than our belly.

Ezekiel, then, in the chapter before us, represented others. One, by looking at him, was to observe that which was to happen to the entire house of Israel.

### COMING

(Continued from Page 6)

of Silver - Daniel 2:39 and the Bear with three ribs in its mouth - Daniel 7:5. The third being the Grecian Empire which was represented by Brass of Belly and Things - Daniel 2:39 and the Leopard with four wings - Daniel 7:6. The fourth being the Roman Kingdom which was represented by Legs of Iron and Toes made of Iron and part clay - Daniel 2:40-43 and a Beast with Ten Horns - Daniel 7:7, 8.

These four kingdoms represent world-wide Gentile power over the Nation of Israel until God's Kingdom is established by Jesus Christ who is the Stone cut out of the mountain that will destroy the image of Nebuchadnezzar - Daniel 2:44, 45.

Daniel also speaks of Gentile world control over Israel until the completion of the Seventy Week of Years - Daniel 9:24-27. Four hundred and ninety years have been determined upon Israel of which at the close of the Nation will have turned to God.

This has been called "God's Time Clock" and is vital in properly understanding our Lord's return. Daniel was concerned as to what would happen to Israel after reading Jeremiah 25 and knowing that the Seven years of Captivity had come and gone and Israel was still in Babylonian Captivity.

Nehemiah 2 informs us when this "Time Clock" of God will begin. March 14, 445 B.C. The Messiah was to be cut off after 69 weeks of years (483 yrs.) and our Lord was crucified accordingly. This present age was not realized in the Old Testament and therefore, we are now in a parenthetical stage as far as Israel and God's Time Clock is concerned. Although Daniel said that last week would be confirmed, we now know that will take place only after the Lord removes the church from this old world - II Thessalonians 2:6-12.

Now, back to our original text, "I will come again" - John 14:3. First of all, it is Jesus who said that He would come again. As he departed this old world the Angels informed - reminded the 120 (the Church) that this same Jesus would return the same way in which He departed - visible and literally. That was the message of the First Century Church. The Apostle Paul said we should not be ignorant of that great fact, but look forward with anticipation of our Lord's return.

Second, our Lord's return is yet future. He said, "I will come again." The Cults have set dates and when our Lord did not come, they were forced to

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change their message. Now He could have come in the past, but He did not. He may yet come today, and therefore, we as God's Elect need to live as though He will. We do not know when He will come and have been warned about setting dates and not to believe those who do set dates - Matthew 24:4-6, 23, 24, 36.

Third, our Lord said, "I will come again." That truth was first promised by the Old Testament Prophets. Then John the Baptist referred to that great fact in Luke 3:3-6. As already noted, our Lord said He would come again - John 14:3 and the Angels made and declared that truth - Acts 1:11. What is even more interesting, the Apostles believed it and taught it in their churches and writings: Matthew. Matt. 24:37, 42, 44; John. I John 3:1-3; Peter, I Peter 1:7, 13; Paul, I Thess. 4:13-18. The immediate followers of the Apostles were taught this truth and, like the Apostles, they made many references to our Lord's soon return.

Jesus said He would come again. That is good enough for me. It is rather simple and easy to see when one takes God at His Word. Our challenge is this: Live as though God will send our Lord back today. As you read over these words and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart, you should become settled in your own mind. Jesus is coming again. It may be today! May God bless you as you continue to study His Word and seek the truth of His Scriptures.

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The seeming peace a sinner has is not from the knowledge of his happiness, but the ignorance of his danger.

### TUNE IN TO THE CALL TO CALVARY

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## THE DEATH OF A SAINT

This week on February 14th, I preached the funeral of Bill Dudley in Winston Salem, N.C. I do not plan to run too many death notices in The Baptist Examiner, but I felt our readers would be interested in what I have to say about this.

I met Bill 38 years ago. We preached on the streets of Winston Salem and other places as boy preachers. We had many hours of fellowship together about the things of God, reading the Bible, praying, and working together.

Then, our paths separated for the most of the rest of his life. Still, through the years we kept in touch with one another, and now and then had further times of fellowship. A few years ago Bill moved back to Winston Salem, but shortly after that I moved away.

After I came here, Bill and I battled royally over the teachings of the Bible about the Church. He wrote me "almost books" in opposition to what we believe and teach in T.B.E. I answered. I often thought I would never hear from him again. Then, one day, as I was reading a letter from him, right in the middle of the letter, he gave up and told me to just call him a link-chain Baptist, praise the Lord! He had read The Baptist Examiner. He had read some of Mason's books on the church, especially "The Church That Jesus Built." He had read my letters. He had talked with Elder Gene Kiger, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Winston Salem. He had studied and prayed about the matter. And He came to see the glorious truths about the Lord's true Churches.

Then, in obedience to the truth that the Lord showed him, he applied for membership by Baptism into the church in Winston Salem. Due to back trouble, Brother Kiger was unable to administer Baptism. It was therefore my glorious privilege, under the authority of Grace Baptist Church, to administer Baptism to Bill Dudley during their last conference. This was the highlight of the conference for me.

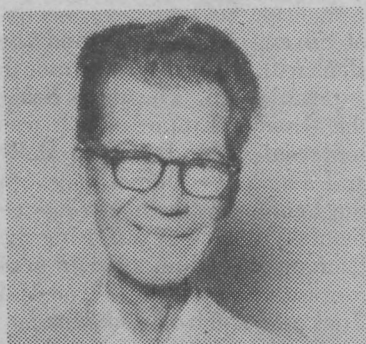
Bill wanted to move to Ashland and help me in the Lord's work here, and we were hoping that this might be the case. I looked forward to years of closer fellowship with him in the things of the Lord, but the sovereign Lord of the Bible had other plans for Bill.

Bill got sick and wrote me about it. He thought he just had some minor stomach problem. He went to the doctor and learned that he had cancer, and that nothing could be done about it. He was told that he had five or six weeks to live. He lacked three days living six weeks.

Two weeks before I went to preach his funeral, I went to visit him, wanting to see him one more time before he died. I have never witnessed a more wonderful testimony than Bill gave at that time. I went there hoping to be a blessing to him.

It turned out that he was a blessing to me. I have never seen one more ready, even anxious, to go and be with the Lord. I truly believe that Bill would have been greatly disappointed if he had gotten well. He talked constantly of seeing Jesus.

He told me, "I have been wanting to see Jesus since I was eighteen (that is when the Lord saved him), and I am going to



Bill Dudley

see Him soon." In his last letter to me he said, "I've got one on you, old buddy, I'm going to see Jesus soon." I felt that the glory of the Lord was in the room as we talked. My beloved friend, I saw, in Bill Dudley, the truth that God gives dying grace to His own when they need it. I came away from that sick room with a stronger and deeper confidence in the absolute reality and blessedness of the salvation of the Lord.

I returned home and waited for the call to inform me that Bill had died, and I was to come and preach the funeral. I did not wait quite two weeks until that call came. Bill had a hard and trying life, especially during the last few years. Many times I received a letter from Bill which made me almost weep for him, and caused me to stop reading and pray for him. But when the call came telling me that Bill had just died, I did not weep for him and I did not pray for him. I remembered his testimony and rejoiced somewhat with him. I felt somewhat like these words in Pilgrim's Progress after Christian had entered the Holy City, "And after they shut up the gates: which, when I had seen, I wished myself among them." Farewell, Brother Bill. Praise God for your testimony, and the blessings we shared together. Have a good time. I'll be there soon, and we will fellowship some more.

## DEFINITIONS

by Ray Hiatt

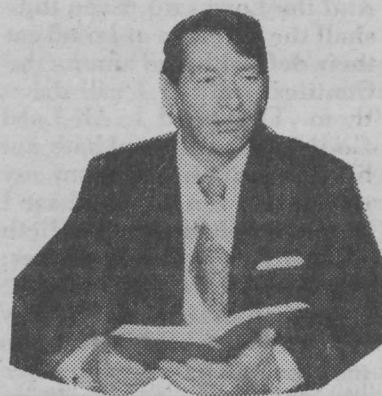
### LOVE

The word "love" has been so often mis-defined and ill-understood that we shall step beyond it and speak of KINDNESS. The Greek word in Acts 28:2 is "Philanthropia" or in the English, "philanthropy." Words change with usage. In the vernacular we imagine that "philanthropy" is a rare gift which wealth bestows upon poverty. Yet, in God's family "philanthropy" is not to be a rare gift, but a common virtue. The single overt identification of a Christian has always been this "common virtue," as our Lord so stated in John 13:35. The

world may be confused by our doctrine, but there is no mistaking genuine KINDNESS. The fraudulent article which the Arminians display to gain numbers is easily perceived, BUT THERE IS NO MISTAKING GENUINE KINDNESS. You can recognize it in Arabia or Zanzibar, in London or Miami. You can know it if you know not the language of the brother who shows it. This "philanthropy" is the outer uniform we wear before the world. The world cannot see our doctrine (and wouldn't understand it if they did), but they can most definitely see how we treat each other. Never fear. They do indeed see how we treat each other.

God's church is a Baptist church. I say this in self-defense lest I be charged with not having an affection of all things Baptist. Yet, the above being true, WHY IS IT THAT BAPTISTS CAN BE THE MOST OBNOXIOUS PEOPLE ON EARTH? I take the liberty to preach against my own household for a moment.

I know better than anyone that true doctrine will drive some folks from our midst. Yet,



Ray Hiatt

I have personally observed fully as many people driven from Baptist assemblies by Baptist obnoxiousness as I have by the declaration of the truth. It is commonly stated among us, "If you preach the truth you won't have many members." There is a modicum of truth in this, but many times assemblies are small because of the demeanor of the congregations which major in red-faced argumentativeness as much as in the truth.

No one wants to go to church to watch a dog fight, but all too often people who come to worship are exposed to an exordium of clamor and strife.

The most delightful statement I ever heard from a Baptist pulpit was spoken by a brother at a Bible Conference in Mississippi several years ago. He said, "It is terrible to be bitten by a dog, but I hate to be bitten by a sheep." Oh, how I love this statement and how I have treasured it! It has meant more to me than many elegant and prosaic sermons delivered in lofty style. God's people are sheep and Baptist assemblies should appear sheepish not serpentine. It was said of our Saviour, "a bruised reed he will not break," and such should be

said of His elect and in particular His church.

The first and last thing that I look for in any person who claims godly birth is not correctness of doctrine, nor even outward faithfulness to a codified creed or a routine of established activity. FIRST AND LAST I LOOK FOR KINDNESS. I have passed time in Baptist churches and in Baptist homes where every doctrine was properly phrased and accounted for, but where I was treated to such irascibility and saw such incivility and vituperations that I was almost wishful to flee to the Gentiles for peace. When I defined "fellowship" I spoke to this in part. I shall expand it now. If I find a Christian who is KIND, I can communicate with him, I can teach him, I can be taught by him. Be he ever so imperfect, if he is KIND, I may rest with him for a time and enjoy, as far as I may, the good things of God together. I can find with him, what I can never find among the red-faced among us; a gentleness which assuages many faults and builds bonds of fellowship which are lasting.

Let us at all costs have a care to be correct in understanding godly things. But, above all, let us be children of KINDNESS. If we fail in this we fail in all, for nothing profits without love, which is KIND.

Diversities of understanding are to be expected among God's elect (not enjoyed but expected). The apostles did not always agree. Confusion sometimes arises. Simon Bar-Jona spent more time than he should in confusion. Yet, we must not expect a lack of KINDNESS among God's elect.

Yet, perhaps even I am amiss here for KINDNESS is so innate within a born-again soul that it is a natural by-product of his regeneration, and does not need to be dinned into him. We are taught of God to love one another. We have reason to wonder if those who quarrel more than they love are born of God. I believe it was J.P. Morgan who once said, "If you have to ask how much it costs, you can't afford it." He was speaking of imbued capacity. I will say to the Baptists at large, "If you are not intrinsically KIND to each other by your very nature, have you truly been born again?" Sheep very rarely bite.

## PERPETUITY OF THE LORD'S CHURCH

by Coy Cox  
Independence, Ky.

Matthew 16:18: "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I

will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Peter answered and said (verse 16), "Thou art the Christ; the Son of the living God." And Jesus said, Upon this Rock I will build my church, speaking of Himself. He did not build His church upon Peter (little rock-petros), but upon Christ (The Rock-Petra).

The gates of hell (the jaws of death), will never destroy His church. The Lord promised His church perpetuity, perpetual existence, duration, possession. Matthew 28:20 — "And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world," or to the end of the age.

Christ who is the church's Head spoke these words to Peter with authority, and put into his hand of responsibility: "I say unto thee." I will build my church. The Builder and Maker of the church is Christ Himself. The foundation on which it is built is this Rock. Christ would not build His house upon the sand, for He knew that storms would arise. It is built upon Christ the Rock; thou art Peter, which signifies a stone or rock; Christ gave him that name when He first called him (John 1:42), and here He confirms its interpretation — a stone.

From the mention of this significant name, occasion is taken for this metaphor of building upon a rock. Christ promises to preserve and secure His church. Christ is both its Founder and its Foundation. She (the church) is His Bride (Eph. 5). The church is not universal, but visible members with scriptural baptism in the Lord's kind of church. She will have enemies; (The gates of hell shall not prevail against it). This implies that the church will have enemies.

## A FOOTBALL PARABLE

Behold, a football team went forth to play a game of ball. Just as the whistle was blown for the opening kick-off, the middle line-backer, arriving late, ran onto the field and took his place. The right end didn't show up at all, but later sent word to the coach that he was sorry. He had been forced to go to his Aunt Mary's for dinner.

The left guard, likewise, failed to come to the game. Having been up too late the night before, he desired to spend the day in bed. The left tackle felt the need to visit another football game across town. The center was away on a little weekend trip, and just didn't get back.

Verily, when the quarterback called a huddle, and looked around for his missing teammates, lo, his heart was heavy, for their places were empty, even though they were there in spirit. However, the game having been announced, and the fans in their places, there was nought to be done but play the game.

Wherefore the quarterback, taking a deep breath, and whispering a silent prayer, began to call the signals for play, hoping that he could play well enough to fill all of the vacant positions. Verily, verily, there were loud boos from the stands while the home team, severely beaten, rose up with indignation and in haste arranged to get a new quarterback. But who really lost the game?

"Lord, was it I?"