

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE WORLD

by Ron Boswell
Hagerstown, Md.

"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world..." (John 15:19).

The subject under consideration ought to lead God's people to pray for and encourage one another. Though we are in the world, we are citizens of another country. We are, as the Scripture states, "not of the world."

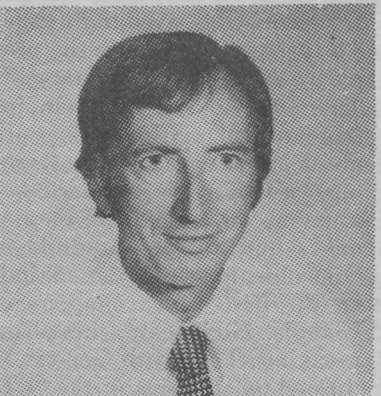
God, by His Omnipotent Power, has made us His children. We have been ransomed from the fall by the meritorious sacrifice and bodily resurrection from the dead of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Though we are as sure for Heaven as though already there, we are, in fact, in the world. The subject is current for us today.

Some time ago, the editor of "The Sword Of The Lord" in trying to refute the Doctrines of Grace, said that Grace was not a force or a power. However, the Bible says otherwise, bringing us to our first point:

I. The Work Of Grace Makes The Difference. Notice exactly what the Word of God says in Titus 2:11: "...the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men."

The Grace of God BRINGS, not offers, salvation. It is talking about the Irresistible Grace of God worked by the Holy

Spirit in the heart of a lost sinner. It says it appears to all men. The word "all" means all kinds of men and women. Should you read this chapter, you would find it is talking about aged men, aged women, young men, young women, masters and servants. The context is about all kinds of men. The power of God is bringing salvation to all kinds of people just like the Bible says, whoever it appears to, it brings salvation. Notice what the Grace of God does in verse 12: "Teaching us..." The Grace of God not only brings salvation, but it teaches us how to live. You do not need to be taught how to live if you are a saved individual. The Bible declares that God has already taught you that. Is not that what it says? "Teaching



Ron Boswell

us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should

(Continued on Page 3 Column 4)

Idleness is the nurse of vice.

MISSIONARY

PREMILLENNIAL

BIBLICAL

BAPTISTIC

The Baptist Examiner

Baptist Is Our Middle Name

Paid Circulation in All States and in Many Foreign Countries

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

VOL. 56, NO. 9

ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, MAY, 5, 1984

WHOLE NUMBER 2432

GOD'S ONE WAY TO SAVE SINNERS

by John Gilpin, Sr.
(Now in Glory)

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour" (Titus 3:5, 6).

I. God has only one way to save sinners.

In the light of my text, you can see that God has only one way to save sinners. There are no seven steps to salvation. There is nobody saved in the rite, or the ordinance of baptism. There is nobody saved by whispering his sins through a hole in the wall to a fallible human being. Instead, beloved, I declare to you that there is only one way whereby anybody can be saved, for my text says: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his

mercy he saved us." There is no other way whereby man can be saved, for we read: "Jesus saith unto him, I AM THE WAY" (John 14:6).

Beloved, there is no other way whereby a man can be saved except through Jesus Christ. He said, "I am the way." He didn't say, "I am a way." If He had,



John Gilpin, Sr.
(Now in Glory)

that might have indicated that there were other ways. He said, "I am the way," and when He

said "the way," He shut off every other avenue of approach. There is just one way that a sinner can be saved, and that way is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Several years ago during the depression and during WPA, I was driving along one day in a certain town, and I asked a man the direction to the town to which I was hoping to go. He spoke up and gave me a way, and he confused me in giving it. I drove on a little bit farther, and where there was a group of WPA workers on the corner, leaning on their shovel handles, which was purely characteristic of the WPA. I stopped and asked this group the direction, and four of them spoke up at once and gave me directions, and all four of them were different. Within one block in that town, five different individuals told me the way to go, and all five were wrong, for I went on to a filling station a block farther and learned the right way to go.

(Continued on Page 4 Column 4)

THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST

by Dennis Garrigan
Jasper, Ala.

"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say not of this building. Neither by the blood of goats and calves but by his own blood, he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us" (Heb. 9:11-12).

One theme stands out more than any other in all of God's Word — one theme more prominent than any other — and that is the Blood of Jesus Christ. All our hope for time and eternity is based upon that precious blood.

"Christ, whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood" (Rom. 3:25). "The blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7). "Unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood" (Rev. 1:5).

True born again believers praise God for, sing about, and base their all upon the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Mark it down that, if you never hear a preacher preach on that Precious Blood, you had better

(Continued on Page 6 Column 1)

ONLY THREE
WEEKS UNTIL
CALVARY
BAPTIST
CHURCH'S
BIBLE
CONFERENCE
PROGRAM: P. 8

by Aaron West
Charleston, S.C.

"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (I Timothy 3:15).

I suppose many people have different reasons why they love a Baptist Church; and there are probably hundreds of reasons we could give, all of which would be good and acceptable. There are certain basic reasons

WHY I LOVE A BAPTIST CHURCH

why we should love a Baptist Church. They are important reasons. Reasons that should be seriously considered. I have chosen four reasons that to me are important reasons why all Christians should love a Baptist Church.

As our text shows us, it is the church of the living God. This is not a universal, invisible conglomeration that the religious world speaks of, nor is it that which the educated Arminian says dwells within the heart, which by his wisdom gives him the right to carry out the great

commission of our Lord. I have not found anywhere in the Bible that the Lord in this age has given individuals alone the right to carry on His work. Since the Lord established His church, all things have been done through the church. He cares not for the free-lance worker who authorizes himself to go about and do the so-called will of God. Starting his own church. Baptizing by his own authority. Christ gave a local, visible, body of baptized believers the authority to carry out the commission of

(Continued on Page 6 Column 2)

MERCY

by Eldon Joslin
Birmingham, Al

I was driving on an Expressway in Huntsville, Ala. It was five minutes to eleven, and I had about seven miles to go. I had not followed the directions to the home of Chuck Talley correctly. I had left my home in Birmingham one-half hour early to be sure my arrival time would also be early. I dislike being late. At this time a mission was holding services in Brother Talley's home. At the present time, they have found a building in Decatur; and by the time this article appears, they expect to be organized. The Philadelphia Baptist Church of Birmingham is doing the honor. This Church will be looking for a Pastor that can help lead them to continue to grow in the great doctrines of our Glorious Saviour and Sovereign Lord.

Because I was late, I was driving above the speed limit; at least this is my excuse. I went over a hill or maybe it was an overpass. At the speed I was traveling it was difficult to tell. At the bottom of the hill, I came to a red light. As I waited anxiously for the light to turn green so I could go, I observed a police officer driving up behind me. Needless to say, I became a law abiding citizen and began obeying the traffic laws of that city.

When I arrived at the meeting place, I heard this report. Before I came to that light, I

(Continued on Page 3 Column 3)

BOOK SALE
CONTINUES
THROUGH MAY
SEE LAST ISSUE

(USPS 042-340)

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Joseph M. Wilson

ISRAEL CENTERED ESCHATOLOGY

"I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew...Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits: that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written. There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall

take away their sins... For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance" (Rom. 11:1,2,6,25-27,29).

I was recently asked, while discussing prophecy, a question somewhat like this. "Why are you interested in all this? What difference does it all make? How important is it? Why not just preach Christ, and leave all this alone?" This is the attitude which many have towards prophecy, but it is an unscriptural, even anti-Scriptural attitude. It really is an attitude of pride and presumption, for it is presuming to be wiser than the all-wise God. Why do I say this? Because God has made prophecy to be a major subject in His precious Word; and for one to have the attitude that this, to which God has given much

space in the Bible, is not important enough for him to give attention to, is to manifest the most arrogant pride. A large portion of the Bible deals with prophecy, and God's command to "search the Scriptures", and to "study to show thyself approved unto God", cannot be obeyed apart from a diligent study of prophecy. Furthermore, God's command to "Preach the Word" cannot be obeyed by the preacher unless he preaches a good bit on prophecy. Paul's inspired attitude of "I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them..." is the opposite of that of the preacher who does not preach prophecy to his people.

Now, Israel is a major subject for Biblical prophecy, and I do

(Continued on Page 2 Column 1)

The Baptist Examiner

THE BAPTIST PAPER FOR
THE BAPTIST PEOPLE

JOSEPH M. WILSON, Editor

Editorial Department, located in ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, where all subscriptions and communications should be sent. Address: P.O. Box 71, Zip Code 41105-0071.

PUBLICATION POLICIES: All matter for publication should be sent to the editor. All manuscripts sent should be typed and double spaced. All such material becomes the property of TBE and will not be returned unless requested by the writer. We reserve the right to edit and condense all materials sent to us for publication. Church news items must reach us one month prior to publication.

The publication of an article does not necessarily mean that the editor is in complete agreement with the writer, nor does it mean he endorses all this person may have written on other subjects.

COPYING PRIVILEGES: Unless otherwise stated, any article published in the paper may be copied by other publishers, provided they give a proper credit line stating that such was copied from this publication, and the date of publication; provided that such materials are not published for profit. If we are not on exchange list with the publication copying, it is requested that a copy of the issue containing the articles be sent to our address. All copyrighted materials may not be copied without written consent.

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY with paid circulation in every state and many foreign countries.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One year \$ 6.00
Two years \$11.00
When you subscribe for others or
secure subscriptions each \$ 4.00
BUNDLES: 10 to 50 copies to one address — \$30.00 for
each 10 yearly; 60 to 100 copies to one address —
\$25.00 for each 10 yearly.

FOREIGN: Same as in the United States.

PLANNING TO MOVE? — Notify us three weeks in advance. The post office does not forward second class mail unless the addressee guarantees the forwarding postage. They charge us 25c for each "change of address." Please save us this expense and the post office time.

Entered as second class matter March 4, 1978, in the post office of Ashland, Kentucky, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Baptist Examiner, P. O. Box 71, Ashland, Kentucky 41105-0071.

ISRAEL

(Continued from Page 1)

mean, major. I do adamantly state that one absolutely cannot understand prophecy without understanding Israel's place therein. A major cause of the great ignorance concerning Bible prophecy today is the fact that many preachers totally ignore, and many are even antagonistic towards, Israel's place in prophecy. The man who presumes that God is through with Israel is thereby totally disqualified to speak on prophetic themes.

Not only is Israel a major subject of Prophecy, but also of the whole Bible. In fact, I might say that, one who ignores Israel's major place in the Bible, is thereby disqualified as an interpreter and proper preacher of God's Word. The first eleven chapters of Genesis deal with the whole world. But Genesis 12 is a major turning point in the Bible. There God chooses a man, Abraham; and in choosing him, chooses a nation, Israel. The rest of the Old Testament centers around that nation. Other nations are dealt with, primarily if not solely, as they come into contact with Israel. Read and see for yourself. Other nations may think highly of themselves, but Israel is God's chosen earthly people, having had a major place in Bible history, and yet destined to be the chief nation on the earth. In the Old Testament, God seems to just totally ignore other nations—the great world powers of antiquity—except when, and as, they come into contact with Israel.

The earthly ministry of Jesus Christ - I speak of His healing and teaching ministry - centered in and around Israel. "Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the father" (Rom. 15:8). Of course, Jesus came to work out a perfect righteousness for His

elect people, and to die for their sins. But His teaching and healing ministry had special reference to Israel, and cannot be understood properly apart from this consideration.

"And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:3). This is a key verse in understanding the Old Testament, and in fact, in understanding all world history. I might say that all world history has been a confirmation and illustration of the truth of this verse. God has dealt with the nations of the world according as they have dealt with Israel. This has been true in the past, is true in the present, and will be true even moreso in the future. The nations that have persecuted Israel have been, or will be destroyed. Those who have befriended Israel have experienced, remarkably, many of the blessings of God. Let the



Joe Wilson

United States take note of this fact, and beware of ever turning against Israel. God has never veered from His purpose to deal with nations as to how they deal with Israel, and He never will. All past history and all prophecy will be in harmony with Genesis 12:3. Prophecy centers around Israel, and he who would understand prophecy must understand this, and study prophecy from this viewpoint.

Many, probably the vast majority, believe that God is through with Israel as a special people, that God has finished His program in and with Israel. That Israel will never again have a special place in the works of God. Nothing could be further from the truth, and nothing could more disable a person from understanding Bible Prophecy. Other nations of antiquity have disappeared from the stage of world history. But God has preserved Israel through the centuries. Why? Because He has a purpose for them for the future. Read the list of nations in the Old Testament or in ancient histories. Where are they? Many have disappeared. But Israel lives on, and is this very day a nation among the nations of the world. Yes, what nation has suffered more? What nation has been the object of the hatred of other nations, and efforts to destroy them, more? How many world leaders have sought to blot Israel from the face of the earth? Where are they today? Many gone and almost forgotten. Where is Israel today? Still alive and kicking. The idea that God is through with Israel involves an abysmal ignorance of the Word of God, or a total enmity thereto. Look at the Scriptures which head this article. Read Romans 11:1-29. The people whom "God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew" (v.2) is Israel, not all the elect. The "remnant according to the election of grace" (v. 5) is Israel, or rather the spiritually elect among them. V.25 informs us that the

blindness of Israel is only in part (some are now saved), and only temporary, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. The "all Israel shall be saved" (v.26), is, by no stretch of the imagination, all the elect, but rather refers to the future glorious salvation of the whole nation of Israel. It may be that not every individual Israelite will be saved during that time, but the vast majority thereof will be. The "gifts and calling of God" that "are without repentance" (v.29) is God's gifts to and calling of Israel. None can properly understand this great chapter without understanding the place of Israel therein.

In fact, one must relate Romans Chapter 9-11 to Israel to understand them. A major problem of that time was, what about God's promises to Israel? If Jesus were the promised Messiah, promised as such to the elect nation of Israel, why was it that it seemed that Israel was being rejected? How could one reconcile the promises to Israel with the present dispensation of God's dealings? Paul, inspired of the Holy Spirit answers this in Romans 9-11. Chapter 9 tells of God's past dealings with Israel as a special people. Chapter 10 tells of God's present dealings with Israel because of their rejection of Jesus Christ. Chapter 11 tells of God's future dealings with Israel, when they will again be the special people of God and will experience the blessings promised to them.

Those who believe and teach that God is through with Israel usually teach that the saved of this age (or maybe of all ages) takes the place of Israel (or maybe were always meant to be God's Israel). They teach that the promises of God to Israel in the Old Testament are to be emptied of real, literal meaning, and spiritually applied to the total of the elect of God. They apply the warnings to Israel literally, for these have come to pass. Then, they swap hermeneutical horses in the middle of the stream, and apply the promises spiritually to all the elect. These mis-interpreters misunderstand Galatians 6:16, "...peace on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God." They apply the "Israel of God" to all the elect, when it is very clear that the Bible is speaking of those from among physical Israel who are also saved.

The hermeneutical principles which enable men to do away with God's special future plans for Israel, and to apply them to all the elect spiritually; will make havoc of any part of the Bible to which they are applied. The Bible is so clear as to God's special future dealings with Israel, that in order to get rid of or get around this, one must adopt principles of interpretation which empty God's Words of any real meaning, often totally perverting such meaning. Understand that this is a necessity. It is not a matter of choice. If one is to do away with God's future for Israel, he must interpret the Bible in such a way as to pervert, ignore, twist its meaning all out of shape and totally contrary to what the Bible plainly says. The Bible, understood by the plain, literal, simple meaning of what it says does teach a glorious future for Israel. Let me just add, that the principles of interpretation which men apply to prophecy to get rid of God's future for Israel, if applied to the rest of the Bible would take sovereign grace out of Romans 9, the virgin birth out of Luke 2, the resurrection

out of I Corinthians 15, and would totally destroy the whole of God's precious Word. This is not my opinion, but simply the true facts of the case. I challenge anyone to deny this.

Now, prophecy simply cannot be understood apart from recognizing the major role of Israel therein. The failure to recognize this, and the applying of these prophecies to all the saved, or to the eternal state, is the root of nearly all the confusion in the religious world as to prophecy as it is taught today, (or mis-taught, or not taught at all).

Now, we must understand that we are now in the church age and that this age is not the subject of prophecy. That this age constitutes a parenthesis in the matter of God's dealing with and through Israel. Old Testament prophecy - to a very large, if not total, extent, overlooks or overleaps the present age. God is now dealing with men without respect to national distinctions. God is now dealing mainly with the Gentiles. Only a remnant of Jews are being saved in this age. All these things fit into the prophecy of the Old Testament. There is room left therein for these things, but these things are not a prominent subject of prophecy. This age is an interlude - a major, important and blessed one - but still an interlude in God's dealings with mankind. In the first eleven chapters of Genesis, God dealt with all of mankind. Then with Genesis 12 throughout the rest of the O.T. God dealt with and through

Israel. Now, Israel has been temporarily set aside, and God is dealing with all of mankind and working through His churches. This age will end with the rapture, and God will again take up His special dealings with Israel. Israel will be God's special people through the glorious Millennial reign of Jesus Christ. This is the clear program of Bible prophecy, and must be understood in order to understand prophecy. The rapture is the next prophesied event on God's calendar. It does not especially concern Israel as it is the end of this interlude of the church age.

There are two great prophesied events following the rapture. These are the Great Tribulation and the Millennium. These both involve Israel in a special way. The Tribulation is not a part of this age. It does not involve true churches. It follows the interlude of the church age. The tribulation, though God will be dealing with all the world, will have special reference to the nation of Israel. Jeremiah 30:7 informs us that the tribulation is "the time of Jacob's trouble." The large amount of O.T. prophecy which deals with the Tribulation shows us that it is a time of God's special dealings with and through Israel. A proper understanding of Revelation 1:19, without which there cannot be a proper understanding of the whole book of Revelation, shows us that the tribulation is not a part of the church age, and

(Continued on Page 3 Column 1)

FROM THE EDITOR

Would you like this paper free for 6 months? Would you like transportation to our church? Would you like a visit from our pastor? Call 325-2012.

How pastors could use The Baptist Examiner to help their work in their church and community. I have used The Baptist Examiner for many years to help me in my ministry. I feel that doing this has been a real help to me. I have often thought of The Baptist Examiner as my assistant pastor. Pastor, do you believe the truths taught in this paper? Do you preach these truths? Would you like to see others believing these truths? Would you like for your members to become stronger in these truths? Let me make a few suggestions for you to consider, pray about, and use or not use as you see fit.

Give out, in visiting, or other ways, copies of the paper with the information given above on it. A rubber stamp is what we use here. You would be giving the truth to others. You might reap some dividends in your own work. You could order extra copies of T.B.E. to use in this way. We would give special rates to you for any subscriptions you obtain in this way.

See that every member of your church receives T.B.E. in their home. Having it mailed to their home is, I think, much better than just having them at church for one to take home or not. If a church supports TBE regularly, we will send each member of that church T.B.E. without further charge so long as we are yearly informed as to their names and addresses. We also give such churches reduced rates for other subscriptions. If you cannot lead your church to support TBE regularly, and you would like for every member to receive the paper for a year, send me their names and addresses and we will send them the paper. You can help pay for this if able, but we will do it free if you do not send any money. But the main thing I suggest is see that every member receives TBE in his home.

Encourage your members to read T.B.E. — each issue! You may do this in several ways. Make mention of the paper in your contacts with members and in your services. Call attention to one or more articles in your services. Mention that you agree or disagree with this or that in the Forum or in some article. Seek to create an interest in the paper and its contents. You can have some interesting and fruitful conversations in your church by members discussing what they have read in T.B.E.

Mention the announcements in T.B.E. Pray concerning them. Pray sometimes publicly for the writers in T.B.E. In this way you will broaden the spiritual interests of your church. I believe that my church comes first with me, but I believe that my church can manifest an interest in other churches and pray for them and for their special meetings, etc.

Pastors, do you believe the truths taught in The Baptist Examiner? I believe you can use this paper to enforce and strengthen with your people the things you preach in the pulpit. I believe that the paper can be a help to your ministry. I know it can, for I know it has been a help to my ministry. Would you begin to use T.B.E. in this way? If you find it to be a help, write me and let me know. Let me use your letter to encourage other pastors to do the same. If you have suggestions as to how a pastor can use T.B.E. in his ministry, write them to me and let me share them with others.

It is my sincere desire that The Baptist Examiner be a help to individuals, churches and preachers, and bring glory to God. God bless you all!

ISRAEL

(Continued from Page 2)

does not involve the true churches of Christ. The verse reads, "Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter." The vision of the glorified Christ in Chapter 1 is the "things that are." Chapter 4:1, "...Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter" shows us that Chapters 4-22 is the third part of the inspired outline of 1:19, and constitutes the things which will come to pass after "the things that are." Therefore, Chapters 2-3 constitute "the things that are." These Chapters deal with the churches and the church age. The tribulation is described in Chapters 6-19, and cannot begin to come to pass, according to the inspired outline of the book, until after the church age. Therefore, the Tribulation will not deal with the churches, but with Israel, as we had already learned from the Old Testament.

Revelation 7:4-8, a Tribulation Scripture shows us that 12,000 out of each of the 12 tribes of Israel will be sealed to be spiritually saved and physically preserved through the Tribulation. This shows the Israel character of the Tribulation. Revelation 11:1-2 shows us that Israel has a particular part in the Tribulation. Revelation 12:1-17 is most conclusive in its teaching that the Tribulation is a time when Israel occupies the center stage in God's dealings on the earth. The woman, clothed with the sun, and with the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars can be no other than Israel from whom Christ came. V.5 tells of the birth and ascension of Jesus Christ. Then this Scripture leaps over the years to the last half of the Tribulation, and shows us this woman and the remnant of her seed suffering sore persecution during the Tribulation, but being preserved by God. Surely this Scripture shows us that the Tribulation has special reference to Israel. Matt. 25:31-45, by no stretch of the imagination can be the same as the great white throne judgment of Revelation 20. It is the judgment of those who will be alive at the end of the Great Tribulation, and is preparatory to the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ. The "brethren" are the 144,000 Jews saved and preserved through the Tribulation. The Gentiles are judged (not as nations, but as individuals) as to the reality of professed salvation evidenced by their treatment of 144,000 Jews. The 144,000 and all saved Gentiles of this judgment will enter the Millennium in their fleshly bodies. The important position of the "brethren" in this Scripture shows that the Tribulation has had special reference to Israel. One simply cannot understand the prophecies of The Tribulation without understanding that Israel occupies the center stage during this time. It is Israel Centered Eschatology. It is the post-trib's failure to realize this Jewish character of the Tribulation that has, in part, led to his adopting of his false doctrine. The Millennium certainly relates in a special way to Israel. This is so patently plain in the prophetic Scriptures, that most who have denied this have become Post or A-millennial, and both positions really deny the Millennium that is taught in

the Word of God. There is going to be a 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ over this earth. It is going to be a time of peace, prosperity and holiness all over the world. The Lord Jesus Christ will reign over all the earth. His glorified saints will reign with Him. Oh, what a glorious, wonderful, blessed time this will be! This earth, the scene of so much dishonor to our Lord, will become the scene of a 1,000 year manifestation of His glory and power. All "kings shall fall down before him, all nations shall serve him" (Psa. 72:11). This is not a mere imaginary dream. It is the declared (prominently and repeatedly) purpose of the sovereign God of the Bible.

The covenant that God made with Abraham demands such a time. The covenant made with Israel before they entered Canaan demands such. The covenant God made with David demands such a glorious reign of Jesus Christ. God must prove false to His covenant promises before there can fail to be such a time on this earth. And if God fails to keep His covenant promises to Israel (for Abraham and David were Israelites and the covenants with them related to Israel), what evidence and assurance could we have that God would not fail to keep His promises to Christ in the Everlasting Covenant of Grace? And remember, our eternal salvation, depends upon God's faithfulness to His promises. Let men, who suggest that God will fail to keep His covenant promises to Israel, beware lest they undo themselves by such misinterpreting of Scripture. The Millennium is based on God's covenant promises to Israel, and therefore must involve a special place for Israel during that time.

I do not have the time and space to quote the multitude of Scriptures which teach the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ. Most Bible readers are aware that such promises constitute a large portion of the Bible. I will say that the vast majority, if not all, of the Scriptures which teach of the Millennium, at the same time teach that Israel will have a special place in that kingdom. Jesus Christ will reign from Jerusalem. Israel will be the chief nation on earth during that time. The Twelve Apostles will reign over the Twelve Tribes of Israel. David will reign as prince over Israel. All nations will realize the primacy of Israel during this time, and will gladly give her that honor. The Scriptures are full of this truth. The only way to get rid of this truth is to deny the Bible, or to empty all Millennial promises of any real meaning by a so-called spiritualizing method of interpretation. Most Amillennialists will admit that a normal, literal method of interpretation of the Bible will set forth just such a kingdom as I have described in brief.

Now, please note that Eschatology (the doctrine of last things: prophecy, if you prefer the term) is Israel Centered. God's plans for this world in the future revolve around Israel. No man can understand those revealed plans without giving Israel the proper place of center stage therein.

This failure to see prophecy as Israel Centered is the root of post-tribulationism, and Post- and A-Millennialism. The failure of the post-trib to realize that Israel occupies center stage in the Tribulation prepares the way for the same dealing with the Millennium. This is why so very many post-tribs become

Amillennialists - and many of them do - we all know that. I had a pre-trib friend in Winston Salem go Post trib. I told him he might as well go ahead and become A-mill right away and save himself the intervening time. Sure enough, he did. I said to a post-trib friend in Mississippi that, if he kept fooling with post-trib, he would wind up Amill. He told me that if he ever saw it leading to that, he would give up post trib. He kept fooling with post trib, and sure enough, he went Amill. But he did not stick to his promise to give it all up. This matter of a failure to realize that prophecy is Israel Centered is common to Post-trib and Amill positions. Many post-tribs do not go on and become Amills. Praise God for this. But many do, and this that I have written about is a major cause thereof.

Well, God has special plans for Israel. The divided kingdom will be re-united. They will be restored to the land of Palestine. The vast majority of them will be regenerated so that "a nation shall be born at once." They will be the chief nation on earth for a thousand years, with all other nations doing them honor. This will all bring great glory to God, for it is He who will bring such glorious, and seemingly unexpected and impossible, results to pass. This time of Israel's blessings will rebound unto and include great blessings to all the world. Israel will become the witness to God that it was intended to be, and this will result in the salvation of an innumerable number of Gentiles. Oh, what a glorious time it will be, and it will revolve around the nation of Israel and bring great glory to Israel's sovereign God.

Let us remember Genesis 12:3, and be sure that we bless Israel. Let us remember Psalm 122:6 and "pray for the peace of Jerusalem." For world peace is wrapped up in the peace of Israel. Yes, all Eschatology (prophecy) is Israel Centered. Do you know the faithful, covenant-keeping God of Israel as your personal Saviour? God bless you all!

MERCY

(Continued from Page 1)

had passed Brother Skidmore; and he was trying to catch me to help show me the way; but when he spotted the police, he slowed down. When the officer went around him, he knew the patrolman was after me. He said he expected to see flashing lights as he came over the hill, but instead he saw me and the officer waiting on the light. Needless to say, if the light had not been red, I would have been caught speeding and been given a fine that would probably have surpassed our weekly grocery bill. I do not believe the police officer would have had mercy on me. I will always believe that the red light protected me from seeing those flashing lights. Some would call this luck, I believe God had mercy on me and protected me.

Grace and mercy are two of the many things that God gives to some sinners. In grace, we receive favor though unmerited and undeserved by us. In mercy, it is a kindness in forgiving us of sins that we deserve to be punished for. I was wrong committing a great crime. I was totally disregarding the laws of that community, endangering my life, the lives of my family and the lives of others. I had no

right to be driving with such reckless abandon. Praise God, I was stopped with just a warning, that being when I saw the Law. I was lead to repentance and then had the desire to do what was right. The Law of God is Holy, and God uses this standard of holiness and perfection to show the sinner how far we have missed the mark. We are reminded of the Scripture that says the Law is the school master to lead us to salvation.

These things tell us that we are unable to keep this law; and thus, we have no grounds whereby we can stand before a thrice Holy God. We cannot keep the Law, and we have no righteousness that we can present to God that we might save ourselves.

Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Since God loved us and purposed to save us from before the foundation of the world, this love is only manifested (as it says in Matthew) in that He came to save His people from their sin. He now grants to us grace, that He might draw us unto Himself and mercy that He might forgive us of our sins. Then He can reconcile us to Himself, a people that deserve only His righteous wrath. Praise the Lord, we do not get justice but rather mercy. How we need that mercy! In my experience with the law of this land, they have given me mercy more times than they have fined me for my sins. The Lord has shown me even more mercy in that He daily forgives me of my many transgressions. When I stand some how miraculously justified before God, I will ask Christ to plead my case. I can only ask for mercy. I have no hope unless I am given mercy. My friend, if you can not look back in your life and see the many times that God has shown great mercy in your case, then I can only recommend that you come to Christ as you are and ask Him to have mercy on your Soul. In closing, I ask you that have read this article to pray for me, and I will pray for you.

CHRISTIAN

(Continued from Page 1)

live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:12).

It is all taught by the Grace of God. In Peter's epistle and also in Timothy, much use is made of the word "remembrance." Timothy is told that if he would put the brethren in remembrance, he would be a good minister. The preacher's job is to remind you of what you already know. It takes much reminding of what we already know.

The Grace of God that bringeth salvation teaches us how to live, so I can not tell you anything new if you are a saved individual, but I can remind you of what you already know. We are made to differ from the people of the world by a supernatural power. We are no better than they, it is Grace alone that makes the difference.

II. Expect Hardness In The World. The new Christian soon finds that things do not go like he or she thought they would.

When God saved me, it was a wonderful thing to me. I thought that now everything would be good and I would be free of problems. I thought that life would sail along and every event would have a happy en-

ding, that every problem would have an immediate solution, that my problems and trials all lay in the past. It just did not work out that way. I found that when I was saved, not right at first but after a while, troubles would arise. When God led the children of Israel, He led them the long way. The Bible reveals the reason — they had not yet seen any warfare. So with me, at first there were no real trials, but after a while, I found that I was in a warfare. In the world we can expect warfare and hardness, listen: "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (II Timothy 2:3).

This verse says that "hardness" will come. It does not say if hardness comes you endure it, rather it says "endure hardness" leaving no doubt that it shall come. As surely as the sun will rise tomorrow, hardness will come into the life of a child of God. This verse likens us to soldiers. A soldier's chief duty is to fight. A soldier has a battle ahead of him, his main concern is warfare. In the world we are to endure hardness because that we have warfare.

The world is a place of battle for the Christian, listen: "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier" (II Timothy 2:4).

We must expect hardness in the world. If we do not have any hardness in the world, it is a sign that you and I have not been saved. Surely it is a bad sign if we go through life with everyone liking us, no one says an ill word against us and there is no hardness for us to endure. We might be religious but unless we have some hardness in our life we do not have the same experience the people in the Bible had. What do we that are saved expect in the world? In a word, hardness — a hard time of it. Hard trials, hard sorrows, hard treatment — we expect battle after battle, not that we seek warfare but rather are attacked. The world is a war zone for the child of God.

III. The World Lures The Lusts Of The Flesh In Us. If you are saved, God has given you a new nature but He has not eradicated the old nature. BEWARE of what is inside of you! Now the world caters to your old nature. It lures the lusts of the flesh in us. You and I should be aware of what is inside of us. Paul reminds Timothy to beware of what is inside him, listen: "Flee also youthful lusts" (II Timothy 2:22).

If Timothy did not have any youthful lusts, then why did the Holy Spirit tell him to flee from them? Inside of you and me is the capability to commit any kind of an act. You and I ought to know that and we ought to be on guard. We ought to be aware of the positions in which we place ourselves.

A survey was conducted on wayward preachers some years ago. They found that the greater percentage that ran away with other men's wives, believed in sinless perfection. They had believed that they lived above sin, that the old nature was eradicated. Now why do you think this group fell prey to this sin more than others? Because they did not think that they had anything to worry about so far as the old nature was concerned.

(Continued on Page 4 Column 1)

The loitering servant is a kind of thief, who, though he does not steal his master's goods, steals time.

CHRISTIAN

(Continued from Page 3)

They did not think that they had any thing inside to guard against or to keep an eye on. As a result, they fell.

The Bible uses the word "Flee." You know what flee means. It does not mean to just walk away, to amble along at leisure, it means to make haste! If your house was on fire and you were inside, the flaming rafters were caving in around your head, then you would know the meaning of the word flee. When Joseph was at Potiphar's house, Potiphar's wife said, "Come and lie with me." The Bible tells us that Joseph fled and she still held his coat in her hand. He did not wait around to see how strong he would be in the temptation. As we view the world, we need to know what is inside of us. We need to realize that the world will lure the lusts of the flesh.

IV. There is No Resting Place In The World. The Christian will find no place to rest in this world. If you are a saved individual, there is no rest in the world for you.

You can go to a ball game, shout and enjoy it, but it just does not edify. There is nothing spiritual there. I am not talking about doing something bad or sinful. I am talking about being unsatisfied. The only resting place for a child of God is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let me show you the picture that is presented in the Book of Genesis. "And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made" (Genesis 8:6). The Ark is a type of Christ. All that were in the Ark were delivered from the judgment of God. Those inside the Ark were saved. They came through the judgment in the Ark and they all got out on the other side safely. It is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. We were in Him at Calvary, we went through the Judgment in Him. We are preserved and sure to arrive safely in Heaven. We shall all come out safely on the other side of judgment. It did not matter how strong they were. The elephant was stronger than the sparrow in the Ark, but they were both equally safe because it all depended on the Ark, just like in Jesus, all are equally safe because it all depends on Him.

"And he sent forth a raven, which went forth to and fro, until the waters were dried up from off the earth. Also he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground: But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot." Notice that the raven never came back, the dove could find no rest for the sole of her foot. She came back to the Ark.

Do you know what was out there? There was water and on top of the water were dead putrefying, stinking bodies. There was death all over the face of the water. The raven, a type of the lost person, went out and fed on the dead bodies. The raven was at home amid the filth. The dove, a type of the saved person, could not be at home in the world. She had to return back to the ark.

The lost can go out and live off the dead, putrefying pleasures of this world. They do not care at all about the Lord Jesus Christ. A lot of people come to church on Sunday then the rest of the week they are out in the world, perfectly at home in the world enjoying the

pleasures of sin. The dove, however, could find no rest in the world. She came back to the Ark. So it is with the child of God, they find no resting place in the world, but only in the Ark of Safety — The Lord Jesus Christ.

V. The Christian's Attitude Toward The World. Worldliness is an attitude rather than a system of "Do's" and "Don'ts." We are not Seventh Day Adventists or Mormons that follow a set of guidelines laid down by the denomination. We are Baptists who believe the Bible. We find the proper attitude laid down in the Word of God. Listen:

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth" (Hebrews 11:13). The attitude you and I ought to have toward the world is that of a stranger and pilgrim. What is a stranger? One that is not at home in the world. One that feels out of place and strange in the world. We ought not to feel at home in the world, but uncomfortable in the world.

Those that are strangers and pilgrims generally speak a different language than everyone else. We should have a different conversation than the world. We ought not talk like the people of the world, listen: "evil communications corrupt good manners" (I Cor. 15:33).

We should avoid evil communication and have a different language. People of the world do not understand why you like to talk about the things you like to talk about. They do not understand why you do not like to talk about the things they like to talk about. There is a different language. There is a language barrier — a communication problem. Those that are strangers and pilgrims generally have different priorities. The world is busy with homes, careers and businesses. We should not be that concerned about such things. All of these things are going to pass away.

They asked a servant of John D. Rockefeller, after that Mr. Rockefeller died, "How much money did Mr. Rockefeller leave?" The servant replied, "He left all of it." Someday we are going to leave all of it — careers, family, businesses, homes. We have different priorities than the world. So what if business collapses! The God of the Bible has promised to look after His own.

Those that are strangers and pilgrims generally have different eating habits. You understand, people from a foreign country

usually have different dietary habits. They usually prepare their food differently. They eat different types of food. It is so with the people of God. God's people want to be fed on the Word of God. Others can not understand why they would travel hundreds of miles just to hear preaching.

I knew a woman that attended church, but her husband did not. He was at home on Sunday morning. He had heard that they were having a guest speaker. When his wife came home, he asked her how the speaker was. She replied, "Oh, I don't know." "What was his name?" asked the husband. "Oh, I am not sure," she answered, "I don't go to hear the preaching." That characterizes many people, but not God's people. They want to hear God's Word because they have a different appetite. The strangers and pilgrims in the Bible made it public. It says they confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims. They made it public that they were not citizens of this world. That is the only way that you and I can be happy in the Lord Jesus Christ, we must bring it out in the open by making it public. The Christian attitude towards the world is to view it as a stranger and pilgrim.

VI. Keep Your Eyes On Jesus While In The World. The Christian while in the world must keep his eyes on Jesus, the Heavenly King. Moses was a good example of that. He was faithful, even in the face of overwhelming defeat. How did he do it? By faith he saw Jesus, listen: "By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible" (Heb. 11:27). He had his eyes on Jesus. That was the source of his strength. If you and I will keep our eyes upon the Lord, He will be the source of our strength. Listen: "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith..." (Hebrews 12:2). Why are we told to look to Jesus? Because we are in a race, as verse 1 declares. In order to win this race we must keep our eyes on Jesus. In the days when farmers plowed without the aid of machinery, they needed some way to make their rows straight. The farmer would generally fix his eyes on an immovable object on the far side of the field. He would aim the plow towards that fixed object. When he reached the object turning neither to the left or right, behind him would be a straight furrow. That is just the way you and I should go through the world with our eyes fixed on the immovable object, The Lord Jesus Christ. That is the way to leave behind a straight life. If

you want to lay down a straight life in this world, then keep your eyes on Jesus.

VII. We Serve The King Of Kings While In The World. One of the great blessings of being a Christian is to know whom we serve. It is very important that we be aware of the position of the One whom we serve. A good illustration of this is found in Paul, an old Baptist preacher, writing to Timothy, a young Baptist preacher. Listen: "I give thee charge in the sight of God..." (I Tim. 6:13). He gave him a charge in God's sight, showing that it was not of men and that it was solemn and serious. He is commanded to keep this charge, listen: "That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Tim. 6:14). Something is to happen when Jesus comes, listen: "Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords" (I Tim. 6:15).

Let me show you one of the things I believe these verses to teach. I believe Paul is saying something like this: All right Timothy, you are a Baptist preacher, by many you are going to be hated and misunderstood. Many will think you are a crackpot. Close friends may think you do not have good sense. You will never be rich, probably you will never have a wardrobe of suits. You will not live in the finest places and your furniture will no doubt be ragtag. Your life will be spent living like this, preaching the Word of God and being rejected of men. Remember, however, that someday Jesus is going to come. When He comes, it is going to be made known that you served the Lord of lords and King of kings. The Lord of all the universe.

You and I need to keep in mind that we serve the King of kings. I do not stand before you as representing myself, but I stand before you because I have been sent by The King of kings and Lord of lords. When you go out to witness or pass a tract, it is not because you think it is a good thing to do, rather it is because you serve the King of kings and Lord of lords and it is in His Name that you are doing this. You and I are not declining worldly pleasures because we wish to be obnoxious, but because we are the servants of a Heavenly King. Someday He is going to come and make manifest that we are His servants and that He is Lord of all. May God bless you all!

SINNERS

(Continued from Page 1)

Listen, beloved, there is only one way whereby a man can be saved, and that is through the Lord Jesus Christ. Men offer lots of ways. Most every man that you meet will try to offer you a different way whereby you can be saved, but, beloved, Jesus said, "I am the way." The only way that you and I will ever go to Heaven is that way of the Lord Jesus Himself.

II. There is no other foundation that you can build on other than the Lord Jesus Christ. "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (I Cor. 3:11). Just as there is only one way, there is only one foundation. If you are going to build a house, you can not build that house on two foundations. You can only build a house on one

foundation. If you have two or three houses to build, you might use more than one foundation, but if you have only one house to build, you can use just one foundation.

Beloved, I have only one life to live, and the Bible refers to that life as a building—that I, by my living every day, am building a temple unto the Lord. I can only build that one life on one foundation. The Word of God tells us that one foundation is Jesus Christ, and we can build on no other foundation, except that which is Jesus Himself.

III. There is no other name whereby we can be saved except by the name of Jesus. "This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is NONE OTHER NAME under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:11, 12).

Beloved, we are not saved in the name of the preacher, and we are not saved in the name of the church. We are not saved in the name of some religious organization or in the name of some individual. We are not saved in our own name, but there is a name whereby we may be saved, and that is the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. "for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

I ask you, what is your hope of eternity? If I were to ask, what hope do you have? Would you say, "Bro. Gilpin, my hope is that I am depending upon my church—the fact that I am a Baptist?" If you are, beloved, then you have no hope. Would you say, "My hope is that I am depending upon myself. I am depending upon my own works for salvation?" If so, beloved, you are depending upon your name, and the Bible says that there is no other name whereby we must be saved, other than the name of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

Oh, listen, God has just one way to save sinners, there is no other way (John 14:6). There is no other foundation (I Cor. 3:11). There is no other name (Acts 4:12).

IV. There is no door whereby you can come, but by Jesus. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. I AM THE DOOR: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." (John 10:1,9).

Jesus didn't say, "I am a door." If He had, there might be implied that there were other doors. When He said, "I am the door," He shut off all other avenues of approach. There is just one door whereby you can enter, and that door is the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you will go back to the ark that was built in the day of Noah, you will find that there was just one door built into that ark. When that ark was constructed, you and I, if we had been the architects, might have planned it differently. We probably would have had a little door down near the bottom of it for the snakes to crawl in. We might have had another big door for all the rhinoceroses, hippopotamuses, elephants, and lions to come in, and then surely

(Continued on Page 5 Column 3)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
MAY, 5, 1984
PAGE FOUR

READY AT LAST!

THE CAUSE OF GOD AND TRUTH

By JOHN GILL

\$14.00 — No Discount!

This is a republication in an unabridged edition in one large volume. Page size 8½" x 11" and the binding is heavy F grade library buckram with pure gold letters and decorations at the spine.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH BOOKSTORE

P.O. Box 71

Ashland, Kentucky 41105-0071

*Plus Postage (See Page 8) — Kentucky Residents Add 5% Sales Tax.

They should be bound in chains of darkness who will not be drawn with cords of love.

The Baptist Examiner Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

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

Mark 9:26. If today one were delivered from demon possession, and "rent sore" as this one was, would this one then need medical attention, or would the body be healed by God in the process of deliverance?

CLYDE T. EVERMAN
108 Burdall Ave.
Ft. Mitchell, Ky.
41017

Deacon
Calvary
Baptist Church
Ashland, Ky.



"And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose" (Mark 9:26, 27).

If the Lord delivered one from demon possession today as He did this boy, He could heal him as He did the boy or He could use medical means to do so. We know that all healing of the body, whether it is instantaneous as in the miracles performed by Christ during His personal ministry or that done through medicine, is done through the power of our Lord. The healing by miracles as recorded in the Bible was done at the power of God might be manifest. We see this to be true in the case of the man born blind, who was made to see by Jesus. When asked who had sinned to cause this condition, Jesus answered, Neither this man sinned, nor his parents; but that the works of God should be made manifest in him" (John 9:3).

To answer the question, again I say, the healing could be done either way as the Lord saw fit to do so, as He is the Great Physician that doeth all things well.

OSCAR MINK
1217 Dillon Dr.,
Texarkana, Tex.
75501

PASTOR
Sovereign Grace
Missionary
Baptist Church
Texarkana, Tex.
75501



The querist assumes that every person who is demon possessed, is also, and at the same time, physically infirmed. Whether that is true or not, I do not know. But it appears from Scripture that demon possession and influence has more to do with a person's intellect, than with their physiological being. It is through the human intellect that the devil works, and influences men to teach the doctrines of demons (I Tim. 4:1). It is the perverted human intellect that is used by demons to produce "the darkness of this world," and against which the Christian wrestles (Eph. 6:12). It was in the realm of the intellect that Satan deceived, and temporarily defeated Peter. The Lord prayed for Peter, and he was recovered from his Satanic sufferings, physically unscathed and intellectually wiser, for he used the knowledge gained from the bitter experience to strengthen his brethren (Lk. 22:31).

Every unsaved person walks "according to the course of this world... fulfilling the lusts of the flesh and of the mind," and are under the influence of "the prince of the power of the air..." (Eph. 2:2, 3).

The devil and his demons can bring physical harm, or even death to a person, but they cannot cause the least injury to any person, contrary to the will of God. While the devil and demons have great power, they have no power at all against God, and the power they exercise is circumscribed and directed by God so as to rebound to His glory, and the intensifying of their damnation. Demons are out to destroy, make no mistake about this. It is the very nature of a demon to destroy, and they would, if allowed by God, destroy every faithful Christian. But Satan knows God has given His people power to resist him and he trembles when a God-fearing saint is on his knees worshipping God (James 2:19).

The believer needs to have a lot of respect for the power of demons, but it is only God he is to fear. All Christians are influenced by the Holy Spirit, and when exercised thereby the evil one cannot touch them, for greater is the Holy Spirit than the devil and all of his demons. It is only when the saint ventures forth in the power of the intellect that Satan defeats him. The intellectual arena is Satan's effectual arena, for it is here that he has blinded the minds of them which believe not, and Paul tells us "the world by wisdom knew not God" (I Cor. 1:21).

Only the person who has been demon-possessed, and delivered therefrom can answer the question in this issue of T.B.E. Being saved, and thereby immune from demon possession (not demon influence), I cannot answer the question. The Christian is possessed of and by the Holy Spirit, and He will never surrender that possession to the devil, nor any of his demons for one moment.

SAM WILSON
1490 North
Spring St.
Gladwin, Michigan
48624

PASTOR
Grace
Baptist Church
Gladwin, Michigan



Mark 9:26; "And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead."

This is a very difficult question to answer, for the Bible does not give one. I fear that what ever I say will be more speculation than fact. I have trouble with this question for several reasons. Perhaps some of our preacher brethren can be of help to me on this question. I would appreciate hearing the opinion of other sound preachers around the country.

Let me explain, why this is a difficult question for me.

First, I want you to know that I do believe in demon possession today. Demons are frightening, only because they are real and their immense power is real. I would urge all lost people to have absolutely nothing to do with anything that is even associated with demons. This includes magic and Ouija boards. Demons will use seemingly simple things to lure one into their power. I also want you to know that I do not believe a demon can possess a saved person. A demon can influence a saved person, but I do not believe he can dwell in the same place as the Spirit of God. My problem comes with this question: Is there a ministry in this day and time of casting out demons? I am not convinced that this was not a power that died with the Apostles. I am not sure that it did die with the Apostles either. This is where I could use some help. I personally, do not know and have not read of a Sovereign Grace Landmark, Missionary Baptist casting out demons. I am not saying that none have. I would be most interested in hearing some response to this. If there is a ministry of casting out demons, I would think it would be at least somewhat practiced by the Lord's True Churches. I usually think of exorcism as a belief and practice of Catholicism. I pose another question, If a demon were cast out would the person be saved? I hope that I have not appeared too ignorant in this answer. These are questions to which I have not yet found an answer. If you can help, I would appreciate it. At present time, I would lean towards there not being this type of ministry today. This goes contrary to some books written by some good men; but not Baptist men. I can not imagine Baptist not being included in this ministry.

Now to answer the question with a guess. I personally feel that if one were "rent sore" they would need medical attention afterward. I fear to say otherwise might lead to the belief in healing. I cannot help but feel, that in this day, if demons are going to be cast out, God will cast them out. I'm sorry that I haven't been much help. Again, I welcome all the help you can give me. I have several books on the subject; but at least part of these books deal with things I know that I cannot accept. Pray for me as I study this subject.

SINNERS

(Continued from Page 4)

we would have had another door for Noah and his family to get in. We might have even put a little door up at the top for the birds to fly in, but, beloved, when God built that ark, which was a type of our salvation, He put just one door in it. The birds, the animals, the serpents, and the human beings came in, all by way of one door, and,

beloved, so far as salvation is concerned, there is only one door whereby man can go to Heaven, and that door is the Lord Jesus Christ. God doesn't have a half dozen doors. He has just one door, and He said, "I am the door."

V. There is no other atonement except that atonement which was made by Jesus Christ. "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us" (Heb. 9:12).

In the Old Testament, they offered sacrifices by way of goats and calves. Those sacrifices never could do away with the sin question. One day, Jesus Christ came and died on the Cross, and the the Apostle Paul, in writing the book of Hebrews, declared that salvation was not by the blood of goats and calves. Jesus had entered into the holy place, and through His own blood obtained eternal redemption thereby. Beloved, hear me today, there is no other redemption, but that which was wrought out by the Lord Jesus Christ at Calvary.

I often say that sin has to be paid for, and it does. You can either die and go to Hell and pay for it, or you can trust the Lord Jesus Christ who died for your sins on the Cross at Calvary. Redemption has to be made. In the Old Testament, those Jews would bring their sacrifices year after year and offer those bulls and goats and various sacrifices, looking for and hoping for redemption. They didn't think when they offered that animal that they were redeemed thereby, but they observed the blood of that animal as it was poured out, and they looked down the avenue of time until the Lord Jesus Christ would come to shed His blood, and they saw in the blood of that animal a prophecy of Jesus. By the coming of the Son of God and His death on the Cross that prophecy would be fulfilled.

How is it with us today? We come to the Lord's table and partake of the Lord's Supper. We pour the wine, which is symbolic of that blood, and when we do, we say that with the drinking thereof, that that wine dates back to the day when the Son of God died on Calvary—when our redemption was wrought out for us. The Jew in the Old Testament looked forward to the time when Jesus would come and die for his sins. We look back to the time when Jesus did come, and died for our sins. Beloved, the Jews in the Old Testament and we today have redemption in precisely the same manner. There is only one redemption, and that is the redemption that is wrought out in Jesus Christ at the Cross.

Oh, would to God that I could impress it upon your soul that there is only one way to save men. There is no other way to save men. God has only one redemption. You could bring all the money that is within this world and make it as an offering, but that would not redeem your soul. The sacrifice of an angel or a multitude of the heavenly host would never redeem your soul, for there was only one Redeemer and that was Jesus Christ. There is only one redemption, and that was the redemption that was wrought out by the Son of God at Calvary. There is no other way. God has only one way to save sinners, and that way is the Lord Jesus Christ.

VI. There is no other saving power but the gospel.

No pope, no cardinal, no rabbi, nor anyone else can save, other than the Lord Jesus Christ. It takes the saving power, and no one has that saving power other than Jesus Christ. Listen: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the POWER OF GOD unto salvation to every one that believeth" (Rom. 1:16).

What is the power of God unto salvation? The Gospel! But what is the Gospel? Paul said in I Cor. 15:1-5 that the Gospel is the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Beloved, there is no other power that brings salvation other than the Gospel.

It takes some power outside of yourself for salvation—not the power that you have within yourself, not the power of the church, not the power of the preacher, but it takes another power outside of yourself. The only power whereby God says that there is salvation, is the power that is ours in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Oh, listen to me, there is no other way (John 14:6). There is no other foundation (I Cor. 3:11). There is no other name (Acts 4:12). There is no other door (John 10:9). There is no other atonement (Heb. 9:12). There is no other saving power (Rom. 1:16).

VII. There is no other gospel to be preached.

God has just one Gospel. Now the world has lots of gospels, but God has just one. In Paul's day, there were plenty of gospels. Listen: "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed" (Gal. 1:6-9).

You can't read that without the realization that God just has one Gospel whereby men are saved. The world has many gospels. It has the gospel of work, and it has the gospel of baptism. There is the gospel of religion, and there is the gospel pertaining to the Lord's Supper. There is the gospel of standing by the peep-hole and confessing your sins to "Papa" on the other side of the door. There is the gospel that if you will do the best you can, you will get to Heaven after a while. There is the gospel that if you will just turn over a new leaf and do the best you can, that you may be saved.

Beloved, there is just one Gospel, for God says there is no other Gospel. If you will follow the other gospels, you will go to Hell, and Paul goes even further and says, "let him be accursed." Brother, sister, God just has one way of saving you. He has never had but one way in the Old Testament. He has never had but one way in the New Testament. He has never had but one way since the New Testament was closed. In other words, in six thousand years of earth's history, God has had just one way of saving people, and that way is through the Cross of Calvary—where Christ died for all of our sins, from the day that we were born down to the day that we die. Thank God for the one way of salvation!

CONCLUSION: My text says, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us." Beloved, that is the way that I am saved. I

(Continued on Page 6 Column 1)

SINNERS

(Continued from Page 5)

want to ask you a question, "Is that the way that you are saved?" You say, "Bro. Gilpin, I don't know. I have joined the church and I have been baptized." Listen, brother, I can tell you right now that you are a lost man. If you go to talking about being baptized and depending upon that for salvation. I know that you are lost.

God has just one way to save you. Is that your hope today? Are you depending upon Him? The old song says, "I am depending upon Him. I am depending upon Him." God grant that you are depending upon Him to save you. If not, why not? Oh, may the Holy Spirit draw you unto Him and quicken you in this very hour.

May God bless you!

BLOOD

(Continued from Page 1)

watch out for him. I cannot conceive of any preacher who does not do so. There is power in the precious blood of the Lamb.

That blood was not wasted on Golgotha. Every drop is still in existence today. Let us look at the Old Testament, and the Tabernacle therein. In reading Leviticus chapter 16, you will note that the children of Israel were very sinful indeed. They were liable to the wrath of God. How could a Holy God dwell among them when they were so sinful! We go on to read about the Tabernacle and the religious worship set up therein — which was given by God to Moses when he was in the mount. The most important place in the Tabernacle was the Mercy Seat. There was the brazen altar and the brazen laver in the courtyard. There was the table of shewbread, the golden candlestick, and the golden altar of incense in the Holy Place. All these were important and had special spiritual significance. But there was something in the Most Holy Place. It was the Ark of the Covenant, within which were the broken tables of the law, calling for a curse on all those who had broken that law. At the lid of the Ark, there was the Mercy Seat. Here God would meet with, and commune with the priest as the representative of all the sinful people. Where was the blood of the sacrifice placed? It was placed on the Mercy Seat. Now Jesus Christ is our great high priest, and He placed His own precious blood on the mercy seat in heaven of which the earthly one was only a type.

Read Leviticus 16. It tells of the Day of Atonement. It was the most important day of the year for Israel. It was the day upon which all the sins of Israel were typically atoned for — all those of the past year. On that day the priest took a goat, provided by the children of Israel, killed it; then took its blood into the Most Holy Place and sprinkled it upon the Mercy Seat. Thereby, all the sins of all the people were typically atoned for, and they were forgiven. What happened to the blood of the goat? It was not left outside, nor poured upon the ground. It was sprinkled upon the Mercy Seat.

The blood of Jesus Christ was not just ordinary blood, just as

Jesus Christ was no ordinary man. The blood of Jesus was supernatural blood, just as the totality of the humanity of Christ was supernatural. According to Scripture, the body of Christ never saw corruption. Psalm 16:10, "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." In turning to Acts 2, we see that this Scripture does not refer to David, but to the Lord Jesus Christ. It was fulfilled by the resurrection of Christ. The body of David did see corruption. Jesus was raised from the dead after three days and three nights in the grave. He did not see corruption. His body was raised in glory and great power, and He is alive forevermore. Therefore, not one drop of His blood fell to the ground to perish.

Let us compare two post-resurrection appearances of Jesus Christ. "Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father; but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father and your Father; and to my God and your God" (John 20:17). Mary would have fallen at Christ's feet, and held them in deep love, but she was forbidden to do this by the Lord. Now note, "and as they went to tell his disciples, behold Jesus met them saying, All hail, and they came and held him by the feet and worshipped him" (Matt. 28:9). Notice, "don't touch me" and "they held him by the feet." What reason did Jesus give to Mary as to why she should not touch Him? Because He had not yet ascended to His Father. Why, then, were the other women allowed to touch Him? Because, in the interim, He had ascended to His Father. What other answer can be given to this question?

Comparing this with the Old Testament types, which were Divinely given for the teaching of Divine Truth, we learn a great truth. The priest, on the Day of Atonement, took the blood of the slain goat and sprinkled it upon the mercy seat. The people saw the priest enter into the Tabernacle with that blood. The next time they saw him, he did not have that blood. Where was it? It was on the mercy seat. In fulfilling the type, Jesus Christ took His own precious blood into heaven and placed it upon the Mercy Seat, thereby completing His work of Atonement, thereby accomplishing the eternal salvation of all His elect. May God make this message a blessing to all who read it, as it pleases Him!

WHY

(Continued from Page 1)

preaching the gospel, baptizing those who believe it, and then teaching them whatsoever He taught. No one else gave them authority. No one had authority but the Lord Jesus Christ. This is not saying that there can be no one saved outside the church. Many are. Who, in their right mind, would believe such a crazy doctrine as that no one is saved outside the church? Neither is this saying that no one can witness to others about Christ and what He has done for them. You have no excuse for not inviting others to the church services. You certainly cannot say that Christ only wants the pastor to invite people to church. BUT you cannot tell them about Christ, then they believe on Him and you baptize

them, unless the local (only kind) church gives you authority to do so.

The Baptist Church is the Church of God; not the Catholic church, not the Methodist church, nor any other church so-called. All churches have some truth, but only one kind of church has all the truth. That kind of church is the Baptist church. Those that have any truth got it from the Baptists. Let me say that many of those who call themselves Baptists only wear the name. They do not know what a true Baptist church is. Before you ever join a Baptist church make doubly sure that she teaches what the Bible teaches, not what sounds good to the human ear, but what sounds good to the spiritual ear. God is highly displeased with those that pretend to believe the truth, but don't know what the truth is.

Again, our text says that it is the church of the living God. Our God lives and is just as young now as He was a million years ago. He does not age. He has never had gray hair. Notice what the inspired Word of God said, "And Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail" (Heb. 1:10-12). Oh, what A Great God We Serve! Our God is not a weak-kneed, gray-headed, feeble-boned old man who is blind in one eye and can't see out of the other. He is living, all-powerful, all-knowing, eternal God, who can and does according to His own good pleasure. He is not the God of the Arminian who can only do what you let him. He wants to, but you have to let him. What a poor god they serve! What my God wants to do, He does and none can stay His hand or say unto Him, "What doest thou." And that's talking about salvation, too, my friend.

The church of the living God is the dwelling place of God. It is where we can find God. In Genesis 28:10, 11, 16, 17 let us notice, "And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. And Jacob awakened out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." Now we do not say that the Lord's Church existed in the Old Testament, but it certainly was taught in the Old Testament prophetically. If we read the remainder of this chapter we can certainly see similarities with the Lord's Church. God does mighty works through His church.

The Baptist church holds God as one that is mighty and sovereign above all. He is our great supporter. Without Him all would fail. The Baptist church esteems God higher than anyone else. No other so-called church does that. It's the pope, the priest, the reverend, and others that do not know the truth or flatly deny it and care not for it. It is not God that is esteemed, but these so-called

men of God! What a poor example of a preacher!

Our text also tells us that the Baptist church is the pillar and ground of the truth. When we mention the Baptist church, let us remember that we do not refer to all those that call themselves Baptists. Many that wear this name are far from being the kind of church that my Lord started during His earthly ministry. The Scriptures will show forth who has authority and truth. Use your Bible for a guideline and you will see. The authority of the Scriptures do not depend on the church, but the church depends upon the authority of the Scriptures. Without Scriptural authority for what our church does, we have no authority. Only the Baptist church has been given Scriptural and Biblical authority to function and operate and carry out the commission of the Lord. The only way other so-called churches can say they are the churches of Christ is to change the Scripture to suit their fancy, but the Baptist churches do not have to change anything to teach and preach the truth. The true Baptist churches hold to the doctrines and teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ. If we do not hold to the doctrines and teachings of Christ we do not hold to the truth. It is the business of Baptist churches to uphold the truth and not compromise it. These doctrines are a great importance. If they had not been, Christ would not have spent time in teaching them. Who are we to be changing the Word of God to meet the times of this age? Is your God not wise enough to give a Bible that is sufficient until the end of this age? Must we rewrite the Bible so that supposedly modern day people can understand it? Are we so uneducated that we cannot understand what nations of long ago read and were able to know and believe? Proverbs 22:23 says, "Buy the truth and sell it not." Don't give it up at any cost. We may have something that is very precious to us, but nine times out of ten if someone comes along with the right price we will probably sell it. Would we do that with the truth? Have you done that with the truth? The truth is not to be like that. It is more precious than silver or gold, rubies or diamonds. It is able to make thee wise unto salvation. Oh, that Baptists would not compromise the truth! It is what the church was built on — not man's doctrines, but the doctrines of Christ.

We also want to notice that the Baptist church is the church that Jesus built. Anyone that is a child of God ought to, without question, want to be in the church that Jesus built. The only church that Jesus built was the Baptist church. Well, you might say, "what gives one the right to say that?" Well, I didn't say that, the Bible did. If we read the Scriptures carefully, we will find that Jesus was baptized before He started His church. We all know who baptized Him, it was John. And John was not a Catholic, nor Presbyterian, nor a Methodist but a Baptist. Let us notice in Matthew 3:1, "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea." He did not come baptizing in the wilderness so that's not why he was called a Baptist. Baptist was not his last name, so that's not why he was called a Baptist. He was called a Baptist because God gave him that name to prepare a people for Christ to begin His church.

It was necessary for Christ to be baptized by one who had been given authority to baptize. Study your Bible. You will find only John at that time had the authority to baptize. Then Christ gave authority to His church and no one else. Christ gave authority, not to individuals, but to an institution. A visible institution. When John baptized Jesus that made Jesus a Baptist and Jesus being a Baptist certainly would not have started a Catholic church nor any other church.

It is of great importance that you belong to a true Baptist church if you are a child of God. Give it serious consideration and in so doing thou shalt heap unto thyself treasures of life. May the Lord bless you and keep you in His service until He returns.

WHY I LIKE AND APPRECIATE T.B.E.

by Dean Elzy Windsor, Ill.

Being a little bit reluctant to relate my reasons for liking T.B.E. for fear of being labeled a copycat, I decided after reading some testimonies of others, there are a great many of us who have the same reasons for liking and appreciating the most sound and spiritual paper of our times. I believe every child of God that has been blessed by this great work ought to stand behind it and support it as to the ability that the Lord has given us. If we would just make an honest effort.

I was saved in a Baptist Church (?) about thirty years ago. While they were Biblical about church truths and did preach the doctrines of grace, yet in practice they were Arminians, which I didn't learn until much later. The first eleven years of my Christian life (Christ-like?) I attended church probably as much as the average Arminian, with about the same spiritual understanding and zeal. I was baptized (dunked) by their authority. I was a Baptist because I was saved in their church and the Lord began to deal with me for the ministry while a member of that church. (As I look back at myself then, the only thing that I had going for me was the shed blood of my blessed and merciful Lord.)

When I came to realize the Lord was calling me to preach, I ran like a scared rabbit. For the next eleven years, I attended services occasionally, fellowshiping with the world mostly, and had about as much spiritual knowledge as the rabbit that I was running like. I had read in the Bible, Book of James, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally," and I used to pray for this wisdom. I also had heard it preached, "Ask and you shall receive—" as long as you ask in the name of Jesus. So I prayed and I asked, asked and prayed in the name of Jesus. As this was being done, my Bible was gathering much dust as it laid on the back shelf. It wasn't until much later that I was led to a passage of Scripture in II Timothy 2:15, where it says to study. Also, a verse in I John 5:14, if we ask according to His will.

In time I left that Church and joined another one of like faith (it was closer to where I lived, and besides that, an ex-school buddy was pastoring this Church). Soon I began to take

(Continued on Page 7 Column 5)

STUDIES IN EZEKIEL

Willard Willis, Monroe, Ohio

"The Word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them" (vs. 1, 2).

Ezekiel, in chapter four and five had acted out God's message to the people. In chapter four he had portrayed Jerusalem and the siege against her upon a tile. In chapter five he had shaved his head. He had proceeded to burn one third of his hair. One third he had smote with a knife and the other third he had scattered to the wind.

Ezekiel's acting has now ended and he is commanded to set his face against the mountains of Israel and prophesy against them.

God, in the passages before us, commanded Ezekiel to do two things. The first was that of setting his face against the mountains and the second was that of prophesying against them. A person, when they set their face, also set their mind and heart. The setting of the face is an outer expression of that which is within the heart and mind. We as believers today must be convinced ourselves before we set our faces to convince others. We must study to show ourselves approved unto God, or we must know where of we speak before we declare ourselves to be God's representatives.

Ezekiel, then, was to set his face against the mountains and then he was to prophesy against them. The reason he was to prophesy against them was because the Jews had taken their false worship to the mountains. It had become a tradition of the Jews, even when they worshipped Jehovah, to perform their sacrifices on the highest hills.

"Only the people sacrificed in high places, because there was no house built unto the name of the Lord, until those days" (1 Kings 3:2).

The above passage speaks of the fact that Israel had taken their worship of God to the high places. They, however, during Ezekiel's day, had now taken their false worship to the high places, too.

It is important to point out, before proceeding, that God's Word had come directly to Ezekiel. Ezekiel said, "The word of the Lord came unto me." We are all to remember that God's Word has also come to us as individuals as if we were the only person in the world. Don't wait therefore on some one else to do your studying and witnessing for you. The Word of the Lord is to you. Set your face therefore like a flint and inform others of those things that God has revealed to you.

I also desire to point out before proceeding that it was the Word of the Lord which came to Ezekiel. I'm sure that Ezekiel did not use the name "Lord" lightly. He knew the full meaning of the name and therefore followed Him even though it cost him dearly. We, of course, are not to think of the Lord as one who only gives commands. The same can be said of the State Patrol, that is, we are not to think of them only in the terms of giving tickets, but also as friends in time of need. God, in like manner and in a manner to which the patrol cannot be compared, is our friend. The following passages inform us of

the kind of a friend God is to us.

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?... For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His Pavilion; in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me; He shall set me upon a rock... when my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up... wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart; wait, I say, on the Lord" (Psalm 27:1, 5, 10, 14).



Willard Willis

"And say, Ye mountains of Israel, hear the Word of the Lord God; Thus saith the Lord God to the mountains and to the hills, to the rivers and to the valleys; Behold, I even I, will bring a sword upon you, and I will destroy your high places" (v. 3).

Perhaps the key words in this passage are the words, "your high places." They were not high places which God had assigned to them, but they were high places which they had devised and set up. God, therefore, termed them "your high places." I'm sorry to have to say that multitudes today are worshipping in their church rather than God's church. They have their doctrine rather than the Lord's doctrine. It is as stated in the following passages.

"Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teachings for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matt. 15:7-9).

Perhaps we should point out that Ezekiel's prophesying against mountains, hills, rivers and valleys had to do with people who were located or frequenting these areas.

"And your altars shall be desolate, and your images shall be broken: and I will cast down your slain men before your idols. And I will lay the dead carcasses of the children of Israel before their idols; and I will scatter your bones round about your altars. In your dwelling places the cities shall be laid waste, and the high places shall be desolate; that your altars shall be laid waste and made desolate, and your idols may be broken and cease, and your images may be cut down, and your works may be abolished. And the slain shall fall in the midst of you, and ye shall know that I am the Lord" (Ch. 6:4-7).

The word "your" stands out in these passages like a seven foot man in the midst of ten four foot midgets. We, in fact, read of "your altars... your images... your idols." Then we read of "your slain men... your bones... your dwelling places."

The word "your" signifies rebellion. It is your way rather than His way. It is your thoughts rather than His thoughts. It is your doctrine rather than His doctrine. Those people would have been very wise had they learned that every tree which God has not planted shall be rooted up. May we all learn to forsake our ways and learn and follow His ways.

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For 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" (Isa. 55:7, 9).

The only way to be sure that our ways are not conflicting with God's ways is to study His word to us. There is no other way for us to determine what is true and what is false.

"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

After reading in the chapter before us of "your altars," "your images," "your idols," we read such words as "broken," "cast down," "dead carcasses," "scatter your bones," "laid waste," "made desolate," "cease" and "abolished." All of these words speak of a catastrophe. They inform us that all that is not of God will be done away with, or every plant which God has not planted shall be rooted up.

"Yet shall I leave a remnant that ye shall have some that shall escape the sword among the nations, when ye shall be scattered through the countries" (Ezek. 6:8).

This passage drips with mercy. It was not that these were better than the others who perished. The pronoun "your" also referred to them, yet they did not "cease." They were not made desolate or abolished, but they escaped. The Jews, in fact, who are living today, are the result of God's mercy at that time.

It is also true that we who have been privileged to receive Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, represent a remnant who have been spared. We, in fact, according to the following passage are a chosen people:

"According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: having predestinated us into the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of His will" (Eph. 1:4, 5).

"And they that escape of you shall remember among the nations whither they shall

be carried captive, because I am broken with their whorish heart, which hath departed from me, and with their eyes, which go a whoring after their idols: and they shall lothe themselves for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations. And they shall know that I am the Lord, and that I have not said in vain that I would do this evil unto them" (Ezek. 6:9, 10).

We learn from these passages that God kept a remnant so as to have a witness to the world that He was as good as His word. There would have been no witnesses if He had slain everyone. Some have questioned if there is any sound to a falling tree, if there is no one there to hear the sound. There, in like manner, would have been no earthly witness to the fall of Israel if God had not retained a witness. God, however, did retain a witness for the following reason:

"And they shall know that I am the Lord, and that I have not said in vain that I would do this evil unto them" (Ezek. 6:10).

"He that is far off shall die of the pestilence; and he that is near shall fall by the sword; and he that remaineth and is besieged shall die by the famine: thus will I accomplish my fury upon them" (Ezek. 6:12).

The key words here are — "Thus will I accomplish my fury upon them." God has many agents who work for Him. The ones mentioned above were pestilence, sword and famine. If one of them didn't get them, the other one would. God, of course, uses many other things and methods in the accomplishment of His purpose. The significant point is that He will do all His pleasure. 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 counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure" (Isa. 46:10).

"Then shall ye know that I am the Lord, when their slain men shall be among their idols round about their altars, upon every high hill, in all the tops of the mountains, and under every green tree, and under every thick oak, the place where they did offer sweet savour to all their idols" (Ezek. 6:13).

The people had used God's green grass and thick oaks for years as special places to offer their evil sacrifices. God, however, had observed their every transgression and had kept a record of the same. The time has now come for them to pay. Such reminds me of Job 31:4 which reads as follows:

"Doth He not see my ways, and count all my steps?"

I remember my own life. I remember growing up back in the hills and most of the things I did back in those hills. I also remember the things that many other people did. God, on the other hand, remembers every thought which ever entered my mind and every act which I ever did. He remembers the same relative to all other people. God's knowledge is infinite. We should keep this fact in our mind and heart as we go from

Missionary To
New Guinea
Eld. Fred T. Halliman



FRED T. HALLIMAN

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

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

Write Brother Halliman frequently. His address is:
ELDER FRED T. HALLIMAN,
Sovereign Grace Baptist Mission,
P.O. Box 36, Tari, via Mendi,
Papua, New Guinea.

this day forward.

"So will I stretch out my hand upon them, and make the land desolate, yea, more desolate than the wilderness toward Diblath, in all their habitation: and they shall know that I am the Lord" (Ezek. 6:14).

We learn from this scripture and others that God often uses His nature as a means of correcting people. The evening news last evening reported the weather in Philadelphia and other areas to be the worst on record. The snow was falling over one inch per hour and the wind was gusting up to fifty miles per hour. I'm sure that this storm was no accident. It, in fact, was a message from God. It was a message that I hope we all heard and heeded. The Lord, in the text before us, delivered such a message to Israel. Why did He deliver this message and why does He do the same today? "...and they shall know that I am the Lord."

The following passages confirm that which I have said to be true.

"For He saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth; likewise to the small rain, and to the great rain of His strength... out of the south cometh the whirlwind; and cold out of the north... He causeth it to come, whether for correction, or for His land, or for mercy" (Job 37:6, 9, 13).

TBE

(Continued from Page 6)

an active role in the church and, about this same time, a dear brother in Christ sent me a subscription of T.B.E. While reading this paper and listening to my pastor, I soon began to notice the two didn't agree. Puzzled as to why, I began to open my Bible and search out the references my pastor used, as

(Continued on Page 8 Column 1)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
MAY 5, 1984
PAGE SEVEN

Judgments cannot make a sinner love God, Omnipotent grace only can make a stony heart melt in love.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE CONFERENCE MAY 25-27

Friday Night

WHERE IS JESUS NOW AND WHAT IS HE DOING?

Owen Croy, Assistant Pastor of host church.

DOES GOD OWE EVERYONE A CHANCE TO BE SAVED?
Dan Phillips, Bristol, Tenn.

THE BIBLE DOCTRINE OF PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION
Jon Rule, Taylor, Mich.

Saturday Morning

DOES THE NATURAL MAN HATE GOD?
Peter Halliman, Member of host church.

THEISTIC EVOLUTION, WHY NOT?
Merrel Kaley, Simi Valley, Calif.

WHAT IS LEGALISM, AND WHO IS A LEGALIST?
Jim Hobbs, McDermott, Ohio

THE PASTOR'S WIFE
David West, Charleston, S.C.

Saturday Afternoon

THE HOLY SPIRIT:
HELPING THE BELIEVER IN PRAYER, Romans 8:26
Sammy West, Griffin, Ga.

WRATH WITHOUT MIXTURE
Dean Elzy, Windsor, Ill.

WHAT IS ANTINOMIANISM AND WHO IS AN ANTINOMIAN?
Sam Wilson, Gladwin, Mich.

Saturday Night

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST
Ray Brown, Indore, W. Va.

THE CATHOLICISM OF PROTESTANTISM
Raymond Waugh, Midland, Tex.

HARD-HEADED PREACHER
Gene Kiger, Winston Salem, N.C.

Sunday Morning

THE DEVICES OF MAN AND
THE COUNSEL OF THE LORD, Prov. 19:21.
Al Lyons, Arcadia, Fla.

BAPTIST CHURCHES: THE ONLY TRUE CHURCHES
Don Pennington, Warren, Ohio

MODERN SALES TECHNIQUES,
ARMINIAN EVANGELISM,
AND THE BIBLE WAY
Ron Boswell, Hagerstown, Md.

THE ETERNAL SONSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST
Joe Wilson, Pastor of host church

Sunday Afternoon

TALK AND WALK I John 2:6
James Crace, Ludlow, Ky.

EVANGELISM: OUR GREATEST FAILURE
Eldon Joslin, Birmingham, Ala.

IF CHRIST DIED FOR PHARAOH
Fred Beard, Cambridge City, Ind.

Sunday Afternoon

THE PRODIGAL SON
Don Mikitta, Red Wing, Minn.

THE JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS
John Alber, Farmer's Branch, Tex.

WHY I LOVE JESUS CHRIST
Medford Caudill, Goshen, Ind.

First Substitute
WHAT GOD CANNOT DO
E.G. Cook, Birmingham, Ala.

Meals will be served to all who attend at noon on Saturday and Sunday and at supper on Saturday. Drinks and dessert will be served at the parsonage after the closing session on Sunday. We invite all our guests to share in these.

You may call pastor Joe Wilson at (606) 325-2012 (church phone) or at (606) 928-9213 (home) for information or help in any matter related to this conference.

Each speaker will be limited to 30 minutes. It is hoped that no speaker will cause embarrassment to himself or others by being called down as to time.

Each one who attends the conference is requested to register. Impression cards will be given to each one, and we request that you fill these out with pro and con statements and turn them in. Many will appear in the pages of The Baptist Examiner later.

We are honored to have you as our guests for this Bible Conference. We hope it will be a great blessing to you. We desire that you remember our church and her work in your prayers. May God richly bless you all!

LIKE

(Continued from Page 7)

well as the ones that the writers of T.B.E. used. If you haven't already guessed it, my pastor was wrong. The subjects in question at the time were predestination and election. Now if my pastor was wrong on this matter, how much more might he be wrong on? So this set me to take special note as to what was said and what was written in T.B.E., and I kept my Bible open, and did I study! I would also read T.B.E. from cover to cover, as well as some recommended books, booklets, and tracts. To make a long story shorter, since that time, I now have Baptist baptism, am a Baptist because the Lord is, belong to a Sovereign Grace Missionary Baptist church, yea, pastoring one, because that is what the Lord started here during His ministry. (A God-called preacher has no business pastoring any other kind.) And maybe best of all, I have assurance of my salvation and the possibility of being in the Bride. Praise the Lord for His love, Goodness and Mercy! Also, thank you, Lord, for T.B.E. I now have sweet fellowship with many of the Lord's Saints and have grown to

love many of them in a very special way. I might also add, through T.B.E. and much encouragement from some dear brethren, I now realize the value of attending Conferences and the fellowship that is found there. Here on earth, this must be a taste of what Heaven will be like. I'm looking forward to the one that will be held in May at Ashland — as well as to the others which I trust I can attend. To those that may read these words, and don't attend any sound conferences nor support T.B.E. — Start, the Lord will bless you for your efforts! Again, thank you, Lord, for T.B.E., Calvary Baptist Church, the editor and pastor, Joseph M. Wilson. They stand for the truth!!

DEFINITIONS JOY

by Ray Hiatt
Ft. Myers, Fl.

This word defies definition for it is "joy unspeakable." It must be lived to be known. As the reality of the "Trinity" is beyond mortal understanding,

so godly JOY is beyond our ability to express.

We can, however, say what it is now. It is not the hilarity which Arminian amusements seek to generate by blithful guile. It is not the emotionalism which Pentecostals seek to work up by musical beats and der-



Ray Hiatt

vishlike contortions. It is not the supposed meditative tranquility of Eastern mysticism which is more often resultant from bodily exhaustion and lack of oxygen than a divine visitation. It does not zest in a questing for riches beyond which are denied the poor on earth, which Voltaire and kindred thinkers charged as the base for all religion. THE JOY OF SALVATION IS NOT MANY THINGS. BUT, WE CANNOT SAY JUST WHAT

IT IS FOR IT IS JOY "UNSPEAKABLE." Until mortals can explain in human terms the being of God, they cannot explain in lucid terms the essential joy which is made an attendant part of every saint at regeneration. What the Arminian promotes by a burlesque fraud, what the Pentecostal manipulates by emotion and what the mystic and philosopher decree by intellectualism is ours by birthright; joy UNSPEAKABLE.

When my first pastor, Brother W.D. Hundley, first thought that God might be calling him into the ministry he asked his pastor, "Brother, how will you know if God is calling you to preach?" His pastor, a wise man apparently, replied rather brusquely, "Brother, if God is calling you to preach, you'll know it." He then abrupt-

ly walked away. Brother Hundley was confused and somewhat hurt by his pastor's meager answer, but found later that the brother was right. He found what all other God-called men have found, that the call to the ministry is indescribable.

Only they whom the Spirit calls shall know it and even they cannot explain it. It seems sometimes even to themselves as an iridescent dream; that God would call them to special labor. If it seems so to them, they surely cannot give it expression to others.

Like the call to the ministry, Christian joy which all children of God hold in common, cannot be reduced to human terms of expression. Only those whom God regenerates shall know it, and they, being bound in the impediment of mortal flesh, cannot express it.

Peter Halliman will, God willing, start visiting interested churches in September. Please contact me if you desire to have him visit your church, giving any necessary details as to time. It is our earnest desire to have him visit as many churches as possible.
The editor

TUNE IN TO THE CALL TO CALVARY

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