

One cannot obey sin's law, without breaking God's Law.

MISSIONARY

PREMILLENNIAL

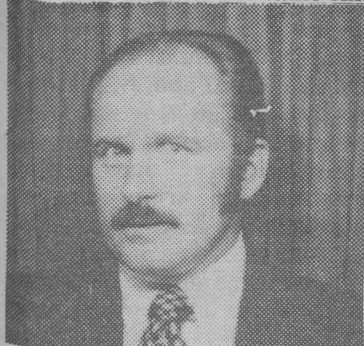
BIBLICAL

BAPTISTIC

WHAT COUNTRY'S MUSIC ARE WE HEARING?

by Eldon Joslin
Birmingham, Ala.

I continue to be astonished at the foolishness of the American people. Do the people in this country really believe that we can live like we are and God will wink at us and let us get by? He judged the world in the days of Noah, and destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah for the same sins



Eldon Joslin

that are being openly committed in America today. One way to gauge the spiritual direction our country is going, is to observe the kind of music that is popular.

In the March 19, 1984 issue of Time Magazine, we noticed an article that gives us quite a lot of information about one of today's most popular musical stars.

(Continued on Page 3 Column 1)

THE SPOILERS

by Ray Hiatt
Ft. Myers, Fla.

"A grievous vision is declared unto me; the treacherous dealer dealeth treacherously, and the spoiler spoileth" (Isaiah 21:2). "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world and not after Christ" (Colossians 2:8).

We seldom have cause to record obligations to calamity,



Ray Hiatt

but perhaps Israel's case shall profit us. "Spoilers" are no new thing to God's people. We have always had those who would carry us away captive by philosophy and beguiling words. The measure of such things must always be of how they speak of Christ our Lord. My gauge of sundry religious thoughts is always Colossians 1:15-19. I must ask of every religious proposition, "does it place Christ our Lord in preeminence"? If not, then it must be false.

The "spoilers" made merchandise of the people of Israel (Continued on Page 4 Column 4)

We have received a few sets of John Gill's Commentary. This set is out of print, and when and if reprinted, will likely be much more expensive. These will be sold to the first few who order them. The price is \$195.00.

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.

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WHOLE NUMBER 2435

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

by John Alber
Farmer's Branch, Tex.

Acts 11:26, "And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."

The greatest gift that was ever given to us was God's love gift of His only begotten Son, The Lord Jesus Christ. The beloved Apostle, John, wrote these words, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). Words can not explain or even testify of this action adequately, but that does not mean that we should not attempt to do so. God's love has been expressed towards us in the person of His only begotten Son, the sinless Lamb of God — The Lord Jesus Christ. "For he hath made him to be sin for

us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (II Corinthians 5:21).



John Alber

This one thing is very certain, for those who are in Christ Jesus. The Bible tells us that Almighty God has given unto them Eternal Life, John 3:16; John 10:28-30. Therefore because of the work of Almighty God, the sinner who has come by the way of the cross has been born again, John 6:37-44; I Peter 1:23. The Salvation (The

Good News) that was given to him (The Believer) was begun in the Eternal Counsel of God before the Foundation of the World, Ephesians 1:4. Furthermore, it was procured by God the Son on the Cross of Calvary, and then effected by the Holy Spirit in the sinner's heart at the point of his conversion, Revelation 1:5; Romans 8:9. As to why, one would have only to turn to the pages of the Holy Writ to find the answer: To bring honor and glory unto God, Ephesians 1:12.

Our basic concern in this article is not so much how our eternal sovereign God brought about our glorious Salvation, but the kind of life one should live after he has received it. One common mistake made in today's world is this: The Redeemed Child of God can live the Christian-Life in his own strength. This is no more possible than it was for a lost sinner

(Continued on Page 3 Column 1)

SERVETUS: HIS BELIEFS AND EXECUTION

by Robert Allyn
Clanton, Ala.

The Bible says, "The memory of the just is blessed," Proverbs 10:7. Many people believe that Michael Servetus de Villeneuve should be counted as one of the just, and that his memory should therefore be held in high esteem. He was a martyr, he died for his religious beliefs. Yet we may ask, "Was he a martyr in the higher sense: a true witness to Jesus Christ?" Although we can not judge the man — that is left up to God — we can examine the statements he made concern-

ing his beliefs.

By the age of 20 Servetus



Robert Allyn

came to the conclusion that the doctrine of the Trinity was a lie,

and he published the tract *De trinitatis erroribus* (1531). The following year he expanded his arguments and put into print a larger book, *Dialogorum de trinitate Libri ii*. In 1534 Servetus arranged to have a debate with Calvin in Catholic Paris: Calvin showed up, but Servetus never did. In 1538 de Villeneuve published a work on astrology, showing his belief that the moon and the stars affected health. Almost a decade later, Servetus forwarded a bulky manuscript to Calvin. Its title was *Christianismi*

(Continued on Page 6 Column 4)

TRUST AND OBEY

by Roy King
Windsor, Ill.

There is a hymn that I am sure each of us at one time or another have sung. It's entitled, "Trust and Obey". I believe every child of God should take heed in the message which this hymn presents. Truly, beloved, you and I would do well by putting our complete trust in our Blessed Lord, and obey His Word which He left commandment for us to do. Truly the chorus of this hymn says it all where it tells us to "Trust and



Roy King

obey--For there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey." I believe in doing this, by fully putting our trust in our most precious Lord and Saviour, and by obeying His word, we do show the proper love which every child of God should have for the Lord Jesus Christ. You and I, beloved, should have our complete trust, which can also be defined as faith, in our Lord.

Throughout the Scripture, we are given accounts of individuals and the great trust which they possessed. I believe these accounts are placed in the Bible as examples for you and me which

(Continued on Page 3 Column 5)

SATAN LIMITED

by Fred Beard
Cambridge City, In.

It seems as if more and more today we hear men, by their actions, and their words, giving honor and glory to Satan; as if he were equal with, and oftentimes



Fred Beard

even more powerful than the Lord God Almighty. I have heard men that claim to be the ministers of the gospel, proclaiming how that Satan is at war with our God; that Satan has won this battle, God has won that battle, and they don't know who is going to win the next one. You listen to me, friends; when a man — and I don't care how many schools he has been to, nor how many degrees he may have before or after his name — when a man stands up and portrays Satan as having equal power with my Lord and Saviour, then I have to say of him, with Paul in II Corinthians 11:13-15, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no

(Continued on Page 5 Column 4)

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The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Joseph M. Wilson

ARMINIAN ABSURDITIES

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8).

This Scripture is surely a foundation verse in the doctrine of sovereign grace. In fact, I would say that beyond any possibility of successful contradiction, the man who does not believe in sovereign grace does not really believe the above verse of God's Holy Word. I don't care what he might say he believes. The fact is that sovereign grace is the only kind of grace there is, and the man who does not believe in sovereign grace does not believe in grace at all.

"The conies are but a feeble folk..." (Prov. 30:26). In this the conies are like the Armi-

nians. For the Arminians are a feeble folk: feeble-minded in the realm of spiritual truth. Again, I am not saying that they are not saved people, for I believe many of them are truly God's born-again children. But again, I say that Arminians are feeble-minded in spiritual things. And this is true of every one of them. I mean their heroes. I mean the cream of the crop. They are all feeble-minded. If Arminians would use the same brand of mental reasoning about other things that they do about spiritual things, someone would want them sent to the 'booby hatch.' I am not trying to be smart or mean. I am simply telling it like it is. I desire in this article to set forth some of the absurdities of Arminianism, and

thus prove to any who will accept proof that the Arminians are a feeble folk.

Man is totally depraved. Man is dead in sin; but this totally depraved man has the power to defeat the desires and resist the power of the Triune God. Surely this is an Arminian absurdity. Now the Bible clearly teaches the total depravity of man, and Ephesians 2:1 does tell us that man is dead. John 6:44 tells us that man cannot come to Christ of himself. Romans 8:7 tells us that "the carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." This is true and the Arminian will talk like he believes this. But if you ever heard an Arminian

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THE BAPTIST PAPER FOR
THE BAPTIST PEOPLE

JOSEPH M. WILSON

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ARMINIAN

(Continued from Page 1)

preach (if it can be called preaching), you know that the very heart of Arminian theology is that God does the same thing for every man, and whether or not man is saved is "all up to man." Arminians preach that no matter how much God loves a man; no matter if Christ did pay for that man's sins; no matter how hard the Holy Spirit tries to save a man, still the final decision is up to man. The Arminian says "God can't save a man against his will." Well, praise God, God can give man a new will. But, my dear brother, will you not agree with me that this teaching of the Arminian is absurd? The Arminian just will not face the fact of what he is really saying.

Christ died a substitutionary death. Christ paid the sin debt of all for whom He died. Christ died for everyone who ever has or will live. Many go to hell for whom Christ died. Is this not an Arminian absurdity? I do not suppose that any Arminian will deny that this is what they preach and believe. Yet, see how absurd, how ridiculous, and how dishonoring to God this teaching is. Brother, I say it plainly, the Arminian highly dishonors the precious blood of Christ; he almost, if not altogether, blasphemes when he teaches his universal atonement heresy. The Arminian makes the blood of Christ, in the case of many for whom the Arminian says Christ died, to be of no more value than the blood of bulls and goats. Oh, that I could sound forth like a trumpet. I know of few, if any, doctrines that are more terrible heresies and more blasphemous against the character of God and the work of Christ than the Arminian heresy of universal atonement. The Arminian is a feeble-minded person. Why cannot he see that the word "substitution" means that the one substituted for goes free? Apply the Armi-

nian teaching to the world of sports. John substitutes for Jim but Jim stays in the game. Absurd you say. Of course it is absurd, and so is Arminianism. How can an Arminian claim to retain his right mind and say that Jesus paid for a man's sin, yet that man has to pay for those sins in hell. How can the Arminian claim to have his right mind, and say that God was punishing Pharaoh in hell and Jesus on the cross at the same time and for the same sins. Brother, we sovereign gracers believe that the blood of Christ is of such infinite value and such effective power, that it saves everlastingly all for whom it was shed.

God loves everyone. Many, whom God loves, go to hell forever. Oh, what an Arminian absurdity is this! Brother, if you could convince me that God loves everyone, you would blot the sun of hope out of my sky and leave me in the midnight of eternal darkness. If the Arminian doctrine is true, then what does the love of God mean to us? How can we talk about the power and comfort of being loved by God? The Bible tells us that He "loved us with an everlasting love, therefore



Joe Wilson

with lovingkindness have I drawn thee" (Jer. 31:3). The Bible tells us that "having loved His own... He loved them unto the end" (John 13:1). Brother, the Arminian besmirches the love of God and makes it to be nothing - a meaningless thing. What kind of love is it that will not do all it can for its object? What kind of love is it that allows its object to burn forever in the tormenting flames of hell? If God loved Judas, and God loves me; what good does that do me? It did not save Judas. What hope can I have that it will save me? But when I know that whom God loves, He saves with an everlasting salvation; and when I know that He loves me; then to be loved of God is the greatest of all blessings.

We should pray long and earnestly for God to save sinners. God cannot save sinners unless they let Him. God has already done all He can to save sinners and God does this for all sinners. Now, brother, is this absurd or not? Man forsakes the usage of plain common sense in order to believe and promote Arminianism. Please, Mr. Arminian, please tell me why I am to pray for God to save sinners, and what is it I am to ask God to do. Mr. Arminian, you tell me that God is willing and desirous to save each and every man. Well, then what on earth can I ask God to do for any sinner that Mr. Arminian does not say God has already done? Really, for Arminianism to be consistent, it should teach us to pray to man and never, never pray for God to save a sinner. The Arminian prays against his theology when he prays for God to save any man. If God should

answer an Arminian's prayer and save a soul, then God would have to contradict the Arminian's theology. Sovereign gracers believe that God has an elect people; that Christ died for those elected ones; that the Holy Spirit is able irresistibly and effectually to cause the sinner to come to Christ. Therefore, the sovereign gracer can truly and sincerely pray for God to save souls. But this the Arminian cannot do and stay with his theology.

Man must, of himself, repent and believe the gospel. If man will do this, God will born him again. Who needs it? If man, of himself is able to repent of his sins and believe on Jesus Christ. Please tell me why he needs to be born again and what being born again will do for him. If man can believe without being born again, then he has everlasting life and is saved without being born again. Now this is just so, and is as plain as can be, and even a simple minded Arminian ought to be able to see this. The Arminian new birth is the most needless and useless and ineffectual thing there has ever been. According to the Arminian, man has already repented and believed without being born again. Therefore, he already has a pure heart and is saved. Therefore, by all the laws of logic and common sense, Arminian theology tells every man living: "you don't need to be born again." Beloved, you and I who believe the truth of the Bible believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties and also, inseparable graces wrought in the heart by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit. We believe that logically (not chronologically) repentance and faith follow regeneration and are the sure and immediate results thereof, and the infallible evidence thereof. I say, not chronologically, for there cannot be such a being as an unrepentant, unbelieving child of God. The life that is given by the Holy Spirit, using the Gospel, possesses the inseparable characteristics of repentance and faith. One does not follow the other in time, for they come together. But it is indisputably true that regeneration produces immediately with itself repentance and faith. Rather, they are all wrought by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is trying to save everyone. The Holy Spirit cannot save any man unless that man will let Him do this. Is not this truly an Arminian absurdity? How can the Arminian make such statements? Yet everyone knows that these statements truly set forth what Arminians believe on this subject. Surely, you are beginning to agree with me that the Arminians are a feeble-minded folk. I tell you, the Arminian just will not think about what he is teaching. How can the Arminian believe that the Holy Spirit is the Almighty God, and still believe that He cannot save man unless man will let Him. Brother, the Holy Spirit does not try to do anything. He does whatever it pleases Him to do, and none can stay his hand, or hinder His working out His own purposes and desires. God's chosen people will be made willing by the Holy Spirit at the predestinated time and will surely be saved. Praise God! Praise God!

Well, I could go on and on with this. But I think I have said enough to prove my point.

Arminianism is a theology of absurdities. Arminians are a feeble-minded folk who will not face up to what they are really teaching. They talk out of both sides of their mouths. Out of one side they talk about a dead sinner and an Almighty God. Out of the other side they talk about a poor little God who is defeated in His strongest desires by the mighty will of man. Out of one side they talk about Jesus paying for sin. Out of the other side they talk about men going to hell with their sins already paid for.

Now I consider it to be the strongest of many strong charges that could be brought against Arminianism that it highly dishonors and even insults the Great God of the Bible. No man can really, thoughtfully, truly believe Arminianism and then consistently believe in God as He is set forth in the Bible, and exalt God as He ought to be exalted. The Arminian system of doctrine dishonors the being of God, the wisdom of God, the justice of God and the power of God. In fact, I doubt that there is an attribute of the great and glorious God that is not belittled, besmirched and blasphemed by Arminian doc-

trines. Brethren, it would be a great study and make a great sermon for someone to just take up the attributes of God set forth in the Bible and show what Arminianism really does to them. Arminianism, from start to finish, and in every part thereof, is an insult to the God of the Bible; a travesty of the doctrines of the Bible. It originated in the heart of depraved man (or worse), and it is designed to dethrone God and exalt man; and it is destined for the pits of hell. Not one word of Arminianism, not one breath thereof, will ever sully the fair and beautiful atmosphere of God's heaven.

Now, brethren, I think we ought to hold the line right here. I am not one of those sovereign gracers who play footsie-wootsie with the Arminians. I have been greatly grieved and even shocked by the attitude of some sovereign gracers (?) towards Arminianism. I have heard them brag on Arminians as if they were the greatest of all the warriors of God. I think highly of Charles Spurgeon, but he almost spoils it all by his bragging on Wesley. Wesley was an Arminian heretic and not deser-

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FROM THE EDITOR

What do we mean by "Landmark"? We here, and those who fellowship closely with us, make much of the term "Landmark." I frequently refer to our kind of churches as Sovereign Grace Landmark Missionary Baptists. In fact, I sometimes say that only this kind of church is a true church. I have often been asked about the meaning of "Landmark" or "Landmarkism." Well, if we are going to make so much out of a word, we ought to have some idea of what is meant thereby, for a word can only convey to our minds what we understand thereby. I do not know that I can, at present, give a clear, concise, simple definition of the term. However, I will set forth several things which I consider involved in this term. Maybe someone can help us come up with a dictionary type definition.

I would not recognize a church as a true church that was not a Sovereign Grace church. However, that is taken care of in saying our church is a Sovereign Grace Church. Therefore, I do not include Sovereign Grace in the meaning of the term "Landmark." I believe that the meaning of local and visible must inhere in the idea of "Landmark." I say this because one who believes in a universal invisible church could not hold the truths that are necessary to "Landmarkism." I could conceive of one holding to a universal invisible church, and yet holding to "Landmark" truth as to the local church; but eventually, I fear, his universal church position would drive him from true "Landmarkism." So I would make the belief that the church is local and visible to be a part of "Landmarkism."

The doctrine that Christ started His church during His earthly ministry would be a further (at least, almost) necessity of "Landmarkism." I do not see how one could hold that the church was started in the Old Testament, at Pentecost, or since then, and be a true "Landmark" Baptist.

The truth of the perpetuity of the church from the time Christ started it until the rapture would inhere in any true understanding of "Landmarkism."

The truth that Christ started only one kind of church, and that it was a Missionary Baptist Church is a part of "Landmarkism." Of course, if Jesus started the church, and if He perpetuates the church He started (and He did and does); then, only Baptists can lay any valid claim to being true churches. Surely, no one would be so foolish as to say that Jesus Christ started umpteen kinds of churches believing varied and contradictory doctrines, differing widely in many ways.

I consider the doctrine of the authority of the church to be a, if not the, key idea connected with the term "Landmarkism." Let me explain, Jesus Christ started a Baptist Church. He gave that church authority over the Lord's work in the world today. That church, and only that church, has authority to administer the ordinances, to start other churches, to do mission work in the world; in short, over all the proper and Scriptural work of the Lord in the world during this age. That church alone has the authority to ordain preachers. Yes, this matter of "Church Authority" is the key thought in "Landmarkism." Sovereign Grace Landmark Missionary Baptist Churches are to recognize no other religious organizations as being true churches. They are to recognize no other professed works for the Lord as being proper or Scriptural. They are not to recognize the ordinances administered by other so-called churches. They are not to cooperate with other so-called churches in any way which could constitute a recognizing of such as true churches.

Baptist Churches were started by Jesus Christ. They are perpetuated by Him. They are the only duly commissioned institutions to do His work in the world today. They alone have authority from the Lord for His work in the world today. Baptist Churches are the only true churches in the world. I believe that all these things are involved in the word "Landmark." These are the things I mean when I refer to a church being a Landmark Church. I hope this will help. I welcome comment on this matter. It would be good if we "Landmark" Baptists would come up with a clear, concise, simple definition of the term. Maybe others can help me in this.



QUESTION: — Who saw a flying roll?

ANSWER: — Zechariah, Zechariah 5:1-2. "Then I turned, and lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a flying roll. And he said unto me. What seest thou? And I answered, I see a flying roll: the length thereof is twenty cubits, and the breadth thereof ten cubits."

ARMINIAN

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ving of the praise of believers in God's truths. Brethren, we are sovereign grace men. Let us behave like such. Let us stay out of the enemy's camp. I tell you, some sovereign gracers are going to answer to God at the judgment seat of Christ for aiding and abetting the enemy. Brethren, Arminianism is a heresy. It is not a little heresy that is not too bad; it is one of the greatest heresies in the history of the world. Let us recognize it as such and let us who believe the truth, stand together and stand strong against this enemy of God's precious Word. God bless you all!

CHRISTIAN

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to save himself in the beginning. The Apostle Paul wrote these words, "Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?" (Galatians 3:3).

The Christian-Life has its beginning with God, the Author and Finisher of our wonderful Salvation. The Eternal Word of God is our only guide line as to what is expected of us, the Redeemed, the Elect. It does not surprise me that our God expects certain things to be done by those who have been saved by His matchless Grace. It must be understood that one can not add anything to his personal status with God for he is neither deserving of God's grace nor can he earn it or keep it on his own. Nevertheless, certain things are expected of the one who has been given life. Now our text has this to say, "And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch" (Acts 11:26). Two very important words ought to be briefly examined and defined: Disciples and Christians. First, Disciples — "A pupil of some teacher" and thus "Implies the acceptances in mind and life of the views and practices of the teacher." Second, Christians — the Biblical meaning is "One who adheres to and follows Christ." In short, the Gentile pagans of Antioch were saying that the believers (Disciples) were mere imitators of the Lord Jesus Christ. It was meant for a slam — an underhanded slap in the face, but in reality it was just the opposite. These believer's were so controlled by the Spirit of Christ that they earned that name that has come to mean so little today in the eyes of most men.

Would you note with me FIVE important things that need to be pointed out so far as

the believer is concerned. These FIVE things are very important and have a lot of bearing on our personal Christian life. The Christian-Life can be examined in the light of the following truth. (1). The Christian-Life has its beginning in the mind of Almighty God before the Foundation of the World (Ephesians 1:4). It should be pointed out that right here the Holy Scriptures reveal to us God's great love for His own. (2). The Christian-Life was provided for at Mount Calvary as God's Eternal Only Begotten Son purchased our redemption by His death on the Old Rugged Cross (tree). (3). The Christian-Life was brought into reality as the Holy Spirit quickened our soul and thus made us alive, (Ephesians 2:1). Therefore we were literally by the Spirit of God transformed from the kingdom of Satan into the kingdom of God's Dear Son, (Colossians 1:13). (4). Thus, because of the GRACE of God man can KNOW the FORGIVENESS of GOD and have the FULL assurance of his sin removed, (1 John 1:9). (5). Therefore, on that account, the Scriptures reveal to us that man has been given the following standing:

First, He is Blessed of God. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). Secondly, He is Chosen in Christ Jesus. "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" (Ephesians 1:4). Third, He is Predestinated unto Adoption. "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will." Fourthly, He is Made Accepted in the Beloved. "To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved" (Ephesians 1:5, 6). Fifthly, He is Redeemed by the Precious Blood of the Lamb of God, The Lord Jesus Christ, (Ephesians 1:7). Sixthly, He has Received the Forgiveness of Sin. "The forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (Ephesians 1:7). Seventh, He has received the down payment of his inheritance, The holy spirit. "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise" (Ephesians 1:13-14). Eighth, He has been sealed by the Holy Spirit until presented to the Father. "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption" (Ephesians 4:30).

Because of our present standing in Christ Jesus, we are commanded, as HIS DEAR Children, to live a consistent Christian life. There are many false ideas about this concept, but none more dangerous than the sinless perfection theory. It is dangerous for a number of reasons, one of which is that it gives glory to man and his ability. You see, the Bible expects us to live godly — but HIS WAY.

Consecration — The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary gives this definition: "An act by which a person or thing is dedicated to the service and worship of God." One cannot begin to speak about consecration until the Spirit of God has wrought a new work in his

heart. But once made alive that changes the whole issue. He who was dead is thus alive and able to respond to the clear-cut commands of God.

You might say that there is a call to personal consecration in the Word of God. "For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves to day to the Lord, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day" (Exodus 32:29). "My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways" (Proverbs 23:26). "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1).

You might say that a person who is not willing to be obedient to the plain teachings of the Word of God is not in submission to God and therefore his consecration can not be unto Him who called and saved his wretched Soul. Let me illustrate my point. Those who gladly receive His Word (in other words, they were born again by the incorruptible Word of God) will follow the Lord in "Believer's Baptism," Acts 2:41; 1 Peter 1:23. Now we know that God gave the AUTHORITY to BAPTIZE to HIS TRUE CHURCH — Matthew 28:18-20 and that the believing sinner was to identify with that Church after obeying the command of God, Acts 2:41. Furthermore, we know that the Child of God is to continue in the doctrines of the Apostles, Acts 2:42, and to be in attendance in the House of God, Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:25. Much more could be stated and backed up with Scripture, but this will do for now for an example. The point is this, how can a person expect to live a Consecrated Life if he is not first willing to be obedient to these things? They are basic.

Romans 12:1-2 are very important key verses in the discussion of biblical consecration. There are many examples in both the Old and New Testaments, unfortunately they will never do you any good other than examples of what God expects of you personally. Before we go any further in this discussion, let me define some words or phrases in our text, (Romans 12:1-2).

First, "Brethren". These are on the same standing or level as the Apostle Paul with regards to being accepted in the Beloved. Second, "Therefore". This has reference to what has already been taught in the previous chapters of Romans. Third, "Mercies". This goes hand in hand with the word "therefore" because it deals with how God brought about our salvation. "Christians are here urged to devote themselves to the service of God by the consideration of these mercies, because they present the strongest motives to obedience." Robert Haldane. Fourth, "That ye present your bodies". This reference shows the importance of serving God with the Body as well as with the Soul. Fifth, "Sacrifice". "This term is used figuratively. It intimates that there are now no proper sacrifices. The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross has put an end to sacrifices. The sacrifice of the mass, then, is an invention of man, and an abomination to God." Robert Haldane. Sixth, "Holy". Just as the Old Testament sacrifice was expected to be holy, so should the believer present unto God a

vessel that is holy. Seventh, "acceptable unto God". When the believer offers himself unto Almighty God in Holy Service, it is always acceptable to the Father.

I. With all of this background, who should dedicate himself unto God? This is a question that ought to be asked by every child of God. From what has already been said, it is apparent that the lost could never dedicate himself to God, much less ever expect to gain God's acceptance by dedication. How can that which is dead, dedicate himself? The Holy Scriptures are clear on this matter — "All Born Again Ones" ought to dedicate themselves to the service of the Lord. That is their reasonable service.

II. When then should the child of God dedicate his life to God? Here is a honest question — one that deserves to be answered. It is not necessarily an easy answer — that is unless you don't believe in the grace of God. Nevertheless, I am personally convinced that every day of the life of the believer ought to begin in the morning with the Child of God dedicating that day unto the Lord. Furthermore, as the day progresses and the temptations of life confront the believer, he needs to dedicate himself to God. Then when the close of the day come, the Child of God can say "good night" to God, and sleep soundly, because he has learned to live each moment with God.

III. How then should the child of God dedicate his life to God? So many things could be listed here, but these few are given as a stepping stone. First, the child of God should give himself to the Lord completely — the idea of self-denial. Second, the believer should be willing to give his family to the Lord. Third, the Christian should give his job to the Lord. Fourth, the home ought to be dedicated unto the Lord. Fifth, one's transportation needs to be used in the service of the Lord. Sixth, the believer needs to learn to give the Lord his eyes, ears, hands and feet. Lastly, the child of God needs to learn to give his pocket book unto the Lord.

IV. What are the evidences of one who has dedicated his life to God? There are so many things that could be listed here that it is not a laughing matter. Nevertheless, six things stand out at this point: First, we will have peace with God, Romans 5:1. Second, we will have the blessings of God upon our life, Ephesians 1:3; Psalm 1. Third, we will be happy and our family rejoicing in the things of the Lord regardless of the situations around us. Fourth, there will be rewards at the Bema Seat Judgment for those who have lived their life for the Lord. Fifth, attendance in the House of God will be the obvious evidence to the preacher and those present that you are attempting to live for the Lord. You can not expect the world or the household of Saints to believe that you are a spiritual giant in the things of the Lord, if you are not willing to be present in the House of God. Sixth, and perhaps one of the very important evidences of your dedication will be your personal attitude towards the preacher, the Lord's Church, and your Bible and lastly, your fellow believer. How can you say that you are living the right kind of life if these things are not correct in your own life? There are many who make more out of this than they ought, nevertheless that is no reason for us to

forget that God expects us to live for Him. May God bless you as you personally dedicate yourself to His Service!

TRUST

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shows the proper trust every child of God should have. Take, for example the great trust which Hezekiah possessed. In 2 Kings 18:5-7, "He trusted in the Lord God of Israel; So that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him. For he clave to the Lord, and departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the Lord commanded Moses. And the Lord was with him; and he prospered withersoever he went forth".

Wouldn't it be wonderful if you and I possessed as much trust in God as Hezekiah? Truly, beloved, you and I should have just as much trust in our Lord as Hezekiah had. Really, we do not have any excuse for not having complete trust in our Lord. We know that before the foundation of the world, God did predestinate an elect people unto whom He would bestow His undying love and tender mercy upon. We know that He did send His only begotten Son to come into the world and give His life in order for the elect to have life. He did pay the price for you and me, beloved.

Truly we can never begin to repay the tremendous price our Savior had to pay, but you and I can and should place our complete trust in Him. The word trust is defined as "the assured resting of the mind of one person on the integrity, honor, justice, love, truth, and any other sound principle in another. The trust which a Christian has in God is an exemplification of their faith; the greater the trust, the greater the degree of faith." The Bible urges complete trust in God and shows us the blessings we can have by possessing complete trust. Yes, beloved, you and I can be more spiritually blessed, and have many great rewards, maybe not in this lifetime on earth, but of the lifetime to come, when we will go to be with our Lord and Saviour. How, you may ask? By having our full trust, our full faith in Him, and obeying His Word. Oh, beloved! How many times do we fall short in placing our complete trust in Him! I'm reminded of what the Apostle Paul said, "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Oh! how sad, but true this is. How so very often this befalls us! It seems our trust falters so many times. You and I should do our utmost to continue in our trust, not only to continue, but to build up our trust, and not go in the opposite direction and falter. It is true, beloved, that all men are indeed sinners. Scripture tells us, "that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God," "There is none righteous, no not one." Yes, beloved, every individual born of the seed of man is indeed lost and on their way to hell unless they come to know the Lord as their Saviour and believe in Him. Galatians 3:22 informs us, "But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe." You and I, who

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The Baptist Examiner Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

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

What about the church steeple? Where did this originate? Is there any difference between a church steeple and a cross on the church?

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The original style or architecture with the Romish church was that of the basilica. During the middle ages the Romish church began to use bells, and, to accommodate the bells, a new architecture was needed. Hence, the Gothic style with its pointed bell steeples or spires came into vogue. The Gothic style of architecture became popular with Protestantism, for bell usage was brought over from Catholicism by the would-be Reformers, and they needed a place for their bells.

The first religious use of bells can be traced to the Greek pagans. With them the sound of brass was supposed to have a purifying effect, hence the use of gongs, and later the use of bells. The purpose of the noisy rites of gongs and bells with the more primitive pagans was the idea that they were effective in scaring off demons, and this notion prevailed to a great extent among the Roman pagans.

There was a time with the Roman pagans when the rooster was sacred, and more especially so with augurs or prognosticators of Rome. The placing of an image of the cock on the steeples of barns and/or homes where they are supposed to avert thunderbolts is probably an outgrowth of the sacredness with which the Romans held for certain fowls. The superstition of the Romish church is seen by the sacredness they place upon relics and images, and the crosses atop their steeples and spires have probably evolved from ancient Rome's sacred rooster.

The use of bells, and steeples or spires with apexed crosses were first used by the Romish church. Any religious custom which originates with the church of Rome should be highly suspect with Baptists.

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I found by research in the public library that the church steeple or spire as such, was first used in Gothic architectural in the 12th century. It was used to, "serve as a symbol and form an outward and visible expression of the religious aspirations of the time and directed the

thoughts of men heavenwards" (A History of Architecture, B. Fletcher, p. 368).

As to the use of the cross on the church, I could find no record, but we can safely assume it was used even before the steeple, as the cross had been used as a symbol of Christian worship from New Testament times. Many of the churches of the third and fourth centuries were built in the form of a cross (cruciform architecture). Constantine the Great, in 312, adopted the cross as his banner as he entered into battle.

In answer to the last question, I see no difference as to the use of the steeple and a cross on a church. The cross is a symbol used to show we worship that One Who died on the cross for our sins. The steeple is a symbol signifying the One we worship is now in heaven. Even in the New Testament, the word "cross" was used as a symbol. In I Corinthians 1:8 we find the Apostle Paul saying, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; —". Again in Galatians 6:12, 14 he says "—they shall suffer persecution for the cross of Christ." "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ."

I know that some of our brethren object to the use of the cross, first, because the cross as we know it is not shaped like the one upon which Christ was crucified. Be that as it may, the shape of the Roman cross has almost universally become known as the shape of the cross upon which our Saviour died.

Second, some object to its use because the Catholic and the Protestants use it, but I see no reason to let them dictate what we do. I knew of a Holy Roller church singing our old song, "Amazing Grace", and only recently it was sung in a Catholic church near here at a funeral. Are we to stop singing "Amazing Grace" because they sang it?

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I must confess ignorance concerning the origin of the steeple. I assume the steeple originated in the mind of some builder or church member who thought it would beautify the church building, and distinguish it as a church. So far as I know, there is nothing wrong with a church having a steeple. I have not been able to find where the steeple was ever used in Catholicism or idol worship. One question a church might ask themselves is whether or not the expense of a steeple, is not in some cases, a waste of the Lord's money. This, however is the business of each individual church and God.

I do believe there is a dif-

ference between a cross on the church and a steeple. First, I believe the cross to have been a straight upright pole, and not the "t" that is accepted by most of the world. This form of the cross in religion has its origin before the death of Christ. It was the first letter of the name Tammuz. This had nothing to do with Christ, but much to do with idolatry. I have no doubt as to Catholicism incorporating this into her religion, so she could entice the heathen. The Catholic idea of the sign of the cross is not an act of honor, but of dishonor. Let us never belittle the glorious cross; but let us never, for the sake of getting along, join in the relic worship and usages of Catholicism. Let us honor the cross. Let us glory in the cross. Let us not use the cross for that which it was not intended. Let us not use the cross to decorate our necks, homes, and churches. Is there a difference between a church steeple and a cross on our buildings; I say definitely, yes. May God bless you all.

P.S.: Since writing the first part of this answer, I have heard that the obelisk and the spiral, which is on top of most steeples was used in idol worship in ancient Babylon. The worship being that of the sun god and parts of the body, that I will not mention. If this is true, then we should avoid a steeple, if it has this spiral. It would perhaps be inconsistent to denounce crosses and not these. Sorry for the late insert.

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Frankly, I know nothing about the steeple. I have never thought much about it. I looked in a few books that I have after receiving this question, but they didn't have much about them either. Perhaps some of the other brethren have more information than I do.

As it stands right now, I don't see anything wrong with it, but I can't see the wisdom of using so much of the Lord's money in the construction of one. I believe that the money can be put to a much better use.

As far as the so-called "cross" on the building, I feel strongly that we shouldn't put one on our building. The reason is simple, we don't know what the actual cross looks like. The "cross" that everybody uses now is of a Roman Catholic design, and I don't believe that they know what it looks like either.

TRUST

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have come to know our Lord as Saviour by the quickening of the Holy Spirit; You and I who our

precious Lord and Saviour gave His life on the cross in order that we might have life, and be saved of our sins, are indeed sinners, sinners saved by the precious grace of our Sovereign God. As Ephesians 2:8-10 tells us, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Praise God for this precious gift which you and I have, who are indeed His.

Truly, we should want to do our utmost in the exercising of our proper trust and love in Him. We shouldn't slack off one inch! We should be most zealous in the building up of our faith in Him. You know, it seems to hold true in almost all things in life, that there is always someone a little better or a little stronger than another. I believe this also holds true in our Christian life. That there are stronger children of God, or so it seems than others. It seems some have more zeal and determination in wanting to serve God with all their being than others. But really, beloved, there is no reason why all of us as God's chosen people shouldn't be strong in our trust and faith in Him. We should be as athletes, and work out! Work out in building our faith and trust in God. The Bible commands us to "watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." You and I should of a certainty, take this to heart. We should maintain our trust in Him, and continue to serve Him as we are commanded. We are assured of great blessings and rewards when we exercise the proper trust in our precious Lord. "Trust and Obey — For there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey." How true, how very true this is to you and me as children of God. You and I will be most spiritually blessed by placing our complete trust in Him, and obeying His Word. It seems many times that our trust is tried, but, beloved, we are to be steadfast, not fall back one inch!

I Peter 1:7, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." May each of us as God's elect, do our utmost to exercise the proper trust in our precious Lord and Saviour, and obey His Word as we ought!

SPOILERS

(Continued from Page 1)

during an epoch when Israel dabbled with curious arts and pagan ways. Yet, Israel's true downfall was from within. Had she been strong in her affection for God the "spoilors" would have attacked in vain. She fell, as many before and since have fallen, because of internal debilitation. Her enemies proved not to be the Philistines or the Hittites, though they surely hated her. Her true enemies were those of her own household. Our Lord has said that a man's foes shall be those of his own household and Israel was typical of this. The external enemies are always at the gate, then as well as now. Those who would spoil us are never far from us.

Israel faced brutish tribes of antiquity while we face the

wrath of all "Christendom" (and a goodly portion of those who say they are Baptistic). Yet, I do not fear the spoilors without the gate. They are fierce in their ire against us as they have always been. Their wrath hasn't changed though they change their public face to suit public demand.

The Romanists and Protestants would slay us yet if they had the power. Yet, I fear them not. It is the "spoilors" within our own household which cause me to tremble.

Notice the phrasing of our text in Col. 2:8. It speaks of those who would beguile us away from thought, worship and allegiance, "after Christ". Dear reader, any thought system be it philosophy, traditions of men or doctrinal dissensions which do not speak well of God's Christ can have no attraction for us and must forever be rejected as being outside the system of truth found in Christ Jesus our Lord. Be it ancient barbarism or modern indenture we dare not allow it to enthrall us. Any system of doctrine or thought which does not place Christ and His precious blood as preeminent in the granting of spiritual life is false at the base and false in the whole. It may be gilded with clever phrasing, fervent appeals and oraclelike utterances but if it speaks not preeminently well of God's Christ, it is a mutation and must ever be an acerbity to our taste. We must cast it out, as we must cast out as refuse, all which would diminish our Saviour.

All Scripture is God's written expression to His children. It is of great moment to distort or temporize any portion. Yet, it remains that some distortions may do limited harm to the work of God while others are CALAMITIES. Some are piquant while others destroy as a raging fire. Men may quibble overtime about prophecy or tithing or whether Paul had weak eyes and do a limited amount of harm. However, there are some things which are PRIMARY and which concern our HOPE and these cannot be abridged in any degree without doing great and lasting harm. I speak now of faith and blood.

In speaking of faith and blood I must first speak of an inextinguishable rule of order which God has ordained by which He orders and regulates the forces and elements of this world, be they physical, chemical, animal, natural or spiritual. This rule of order is called "The Law of Action and Reaction."

The term "Law Of Action And Reaction" is not found in Scripture like the terms "trinity, missionary and rapture" are not found there, but like these terms the fact of "Action And Reaction" is found throughout. Scientists have so sufficiently recognized this inflexible law to make it an elemental rule of Physics. All empirical scientific investigation is founded upon this law save one... the theory of evolution. Here science has forsaken order for folly.

This law is quite simple and says that for every ACTION there is a commensurate REACTION. This law is operable in all things and at all times. We see it operable in Genesis where God spoke (which was an ACTION) and certain things occurred (which was the REACTION). It is an operable, controlling force throughout Scripture in all cases. There are no exceptions to this rule of order within God's created order.

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SPOILERS

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man this law remains inexorable. Certain things are performed by God PRECISELY and these PRECISE ACTIONS generate certain PRECISE REACTIONS. It is not sufficient to say that God must make a man alive spiritually because a man is incapable of generating spiritual life or even laying hold of it unless God first ACTS upon him. We all believe this. We all believe that God is the single causative force in regeneration. Nothing of man contributes to it for nothing in man is spiritual until enlivened by God. However, to merely say that God must make a man alive, while perfectly true, does not say ENOUGH until you describe fully just HOW a man is enlivened. HOW? PRECISELY HOW? General statements, of which we hear many, cannot tell us HOW this is done. Regeneration is an ACTION on God's part. We must understand the particulars of this ACTION to comprehend it fully. By what PRECISE ACTIONS does God make a soul spiritually alive? What then are the PRECISE REACTIONS? This we must know lest we be facile and have our understanding darkened.

It is said by some today in public print that a man can be made spiritually alive without the benefit of the gospel message AND WITHOUT GOD-GIVEN FAITH IN CHRIST. Can such a thing be? I must now speak of faith and blood.

Can a man be made spiritually alive without being made beneficiary of Christ's blood? Is such a thing thinkable? Not even the benighted Arminians in all their ignorance would believe such a thing. HOW, then, is a man made beneficiary of Christ's blood? HOW? By what manner and by what means? The answer is incredibly simple, and only those who would weave a malleable doctrine would overlook it. A MAN IS MADE BENEFICIARY OF

CHRIST'S BLOOD BY THE ACT OF GOD-GIVEN FAITH IN CHRIST. God-given faith, faith in the Son of God. Faith, God-given faith is an ACTION which produces a definitive REACTION, "Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1:9). Our text in Romans 3:25 reinforces most strongly this fact. Faith. Without God-given faith in Christ a man is not spiritually alive nor can ever be spiritually alive. Does this denigrate the work of the Spirit in regeneration? Nay. It magnifies the Spirit's work for it is the Spirit which ministers the given faith whereby a soul is enabled to cleave to the Son of life.

If a man is made spiritually alive by the quickening of the Spirit and the necessary instant granting of faith, then what does this truth do to the new and novel concept that a man may be made spiritually alive today and yet many years may elapse before faith is granted? It annihilates it completely.

The entire thrust of this message is that God-given faith cannot be severed from the life-giving act of regeneration. Without the God-given ACTION of faith in Christ no man can claim spiritual life which is the resultant REACTION of God's gift. Must a man be made spiritually alive before he can exercise God-given faith? Of course, and to even ask the question is folly. We all know

that a spiritually dead man can perform no spiritual acts whatever.

BUT, INSTANTLY UPON BEING QUICKENED, WITHIN THE SAME INSTANT OF TIME SO FAR AS WE CAN UNDERSTAND TIME TO BE DIVISIBLE, A MAN IS GRANTED FAITH IN CHRIST. Thus is the precious work of God completed, not in fragmented processes as some would have us believe, but instantly upon God's first ACTION which produces instantly a PRECISE REACTION, i.e. the making of a man fully alive in Christ. Without God-granted faith being exercised a man has no access to the life benefits of Christ's blood.

I state to you in most simplistic terms that to be without faith is to be without Christ and to be without Christ is to be without God. No man can claim affinity with God nor kinship in the heavenly family without being made alive and having granted unto him instantly a spiritual faith in the Son of Life.

All spiritual life is bound up in and contained in the Son of God as 1 John 5:11-12 tells us. What will men do with this Scripture when they state that a man may be made spiritually alive, but may live years of time without having heard of or had faith in Christ? What will they do? I imagine that they will conveniently ignore its existence. What need is there to multiply Scripture upon Scripture? If men will not heed Romans 3:25 and 1 John 5:11-12, a score of Scriptures teaching the same clear truth would not suffice.

A dear brother who believes in "Time Lapse Regeneration" once said to me that the Spirit APPLIES the blood of Christ at regeneration. This is true, but it doesn't speak fully enough. I asked him many months ago to tell me HOW the Spirit "applies" the benefits of Christ's blood. How? By what manner and by what means? Months of time have passed and he has yet to answer. Dear reader, the benefits of Christ's precious blood are "applied" by the granting of God-given faith in Christ upon the instant of spiritual quickening. The Scriptures tell this over and yea over again. It seems that men who preach a time lapse regeneration are struck dumb by any mention of faith in the blood of Christ.

Words change their meaning by their usage. Chaucer surely spoke a different "English" than is common today. In the vernacular we apply "spoil" to a decaying process such as the spoiling of either food or a child. Such is not the Bible meaning. A "spoiler" in Scripture is one who overcomes the weak and pillages their treasure. Such is the New Testament usage. II Peter 2:1-3 gives vivid description of the methods of those who would "make merchandise of you." These "spoilers" in the New Testament do not seek for gold nor raiment but for the very souls of men. "False teachers" is the expression in the first verse.

New Testament "spoilers" do not use the sword and the flame but rather philosophy, traditions of men, beguiling ways and feigned words. They are far more deadly than those ancient barbarians who sought only the gold, the cattle and human slaves to hew their wood and carry their water. Chattel slavery, though detestable, is to be preferred to being made "merchandise" by false teachers. Much rather would I

be a slave in a loathsome swamp than turn my eyes from the Christ of God.

THE SINGLE MOTIVE OF EVERY FALSE TEACHER CATALOGUED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT IS TO REMOVE MEN'S EYES FROM THE CHRIST OF GOD. Satan hates God's Christ so deeply that he will even use a guise of Sovereign Grace, misapplied and misunderstood, to turn men's eyes from the Christ. Every false religious system, whether Romanism, Arminianism, Pentacostalism or any ism is one in motive and view... to turn us from a continuing look at the Son of Life.

Much of this is done in simple ignorance and some with even sincere intent by varied religious systems. They know nothing until taught by God, and out of their ignorance they speak. Some, however, is done by men wise in the Word and taught in the Scriptures. Some who have become profound in the Word in many ways, have yet become "spoilers" on par with false systems of the world. Ignorance cannot excuse THEM. The poor Campbellite or Pentecostal who imagines that he is working his way to glory is to be pitied more than censured.

Indeed censure will not profit him unless he be born of God.

Yet, there are "spoilers" of our own household who are not ignorant of God's grace, who are not uninstructed in God's Sovereign majesty, who fail not to see God as immutable and supreme in all things. These "spoilers" are by far the worst of the breed. The Campbellites and Pentacostals would remove our eyes from the Christ because of their abysmal ignorance of God's sovereignty and majesty. Not so the "spoilers" of our own house. Those who believe in Sovereign Grace and who yet cry that faith in Christ can be far removed from the regenerating act of God are "spoilers" indeed. Theirs is the most detestable act for their aberration is allegedly predicated on the teaching of Sovereign Grace. However, they take the Sovereign Grace of God to lengths and degrees never intended by God. In doing this they "spoil" us and "make merchandise" of us fully as much as the Romanist would do if he dared. THEIR SIN IS THAT THEY REMOVE OUR EYES FROM THE CHRIST OF GOD. I STATE TO YOU, DEAR READER, THAT ANYONE, WHO FOR ANY REASON, SEEKS TO BRING ANY OTHER FOCUS BEFORE YOUR EYES THAN THE CHRIST OF GOD IS A "SPOILER" AND A DANGEROUS MAN. If their system of thought is not "after Christ" (Col. 2:8) then it is as fully false as the Arminian in his wayward blindness.

If such statements are harsh, then let their truth mitigate their harshness. Is it not time for plain talk? Can we abide in silence any longer when men who avow that they believe in Sovereign Grace would preach a system of philosophy which has not Christ as its center and as its beginning and end? Can we remain silent when those of our own household would remove our eyes from the Christ of God who is our HOPE? Regardless of reasonings, regardless of sincerity, regardless of good intent, regardless of who it might be, anyone who would beguile our eyes from the Christ of God is performing an evil and malevolent work. We have a surfeit of such distortions from

the outside religious world. We need not to find it active in our own household.

All error is hurtful but all error is not calamitous. All blind spots create pain and tumult by degrees of their blindness, but all do not wreck havoc. All errors do not draw our eyes away from God's Christ. We may discuss many things in Scripture, from tithing to Christian deportment, and yet have our eyes fixed upon Christ our Lord who is our HOPE. I am not saying that some things of the Word are less important than others, for the Word stands together in its entirety as a single unit of truth from God. The begets of the Old Testament are just as vital as the richness of grace described in Ephesians. It is fully God's Word. Yet, some errors are manifestly more hurtful than others and are adjudged with greater severity. Sin is fully sin, but all sin does not work the same degree of harm to the good work of God. Error is error, but the greatest of human error is to place the Christ of God in less than a preeminent position in ANYTHING.

The holy ACTIONS of the Trinity in granting spiritual life are all equally important for all the works of the three persons of God fully compliment each other and are bound together in a holy design with God as their author. I do not lessen the importance of the work of the Holy Spirit nor God the Father when I say that God has ordained that "in him should all fulness dwell" (Col. 1:19).

God-given faith in God's Christ is an initial and instant ACTION at the instant of regeneration. A man must "behold the Lamb of God" by faith to partake of heavenly things. To say otherwise is to create a hybrid being who is denied ACCESS to the blood. The "spoilers" among us would have us see God without seeing Him through God's Christ. By this expression of theological folly they would rob us of the treasures to be found only in the Christ.

SATAN

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marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

Beloved, it is my heart's desire to set forth in this article some things that we have need to know and understand about Satan, and the limitations that are set upon him.

"Things To Know About Satan"

I. Satan was created: Ezekiel 28:13-15. "Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

Thou art the anointed cherub that converth; and I have set thee so; thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee."

By the Word of God; God says that He created Satan, and He (God) had set Satan as the covering angel upon the holy mountain of God: God says that Satan was perfect, just as God wanted him to be.

II. Satan once made heaven his home. Isaiah 14:12-15 says, "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit." God says that Satan once lived in the heavens which were the abode of God and all His angels. He lived there until SIN was found in him, and when sin was found God cast him out.

III. Satan is beautiful, and intelligent: Ezekiel 28:17 says, "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty." Satan is not some little red-suited, horned-headed, tailed creature, running around with a pitchfork in his hand. "Thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness;" God's Word says that Satan was wise, filled with wisdom, so wise that his own brightness had corrupted his wisdom. Genesis 3:1 says that the serpent, Satan, was more subtil than any beast of the field. That is to say, that he is crafty, filled with deception and lying wonders.

IV. Satan was cast out of the mountain of God: Ezekiel 28:16 says: "By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire." God says to Satan: because of SIN, sin that is in you, I will throw you out of my home, out of my heaven, and out of my mountain! Where did God cast him?

V. Satan was cast out of heaven to the earth: Isaiah 14:12 says that God cut Satan down to the ground. Beloved friends of God, these things we need to understand! God created all things and that includes Satan. God made Satan as the covering cherub over all the angels of God. Satan was beautiful to look upon, and very wise in all things. God cast Satan out of heaven, which had been his home, and down to the earth, where God was to use Satan just as God uses all that He has created.

II

"Limited In The Fall"

Genesis 3:1-6 tells us of how the serpent (Satan) deceived Eve, and how that Adam stood by saying nothing, but did willfully take of the forbidden fruit, and did eat, also. Now I know that most of the so-called Christian world believes and teaches that Adam just made a bad choice, but the Bible, doesn't say that, and no where is it taught in the true assemblies of God.

Ephesians 1:4 tells us that God chose a people from before the foundation of this world.

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SATAN

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Romans 8:28-33 tells us of those that God chose, (God's elect) and how that all things work together for their good; how that His elect were predestinated to be Christ-like; called, justified, and praise be to God! glorified. Christ Jesus says to us in John 15:16, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you." The elect of God were chosen before the worlds were ever formed, and their names were written down in the Lamb's Book of Life, and that book was sealed! I believe that it was sealed with the seven seals that no man in heaven, nor in earth, were able to open, no! not even to look upon. Only Christ Jesus will have the power, and be found worthy to open those seals.

God, having chosen those that were to be His, having given them to His Son, His Son having agreed to come to this earth to die in their stead to pay their sin debt. Adam, God's creation, did fall! God is no gambler, nothing is by chance with God. Adam didn't just make a bad choice, for if that were so, then God is just a lucky guesser. I don't believe that, and neither does anyone else that knows and loves the sovereign God of the Bible, the word of Truth. Psalm 115:3, "Our God is in the heavens; he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased." It pleased God to use Satan in the fall of man, but even in this, Satan was limited!

There stood in the midst of the garden of God, not one tree, but two. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and the tree of life. But Satan was limited to dealing with the tree of knowledge, God forbade him to even speak of the tree of life. Are you so naive as to think that Satan would have passed up the opportunity to mess up the eternal plan of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, in the everlasting covenant? Satan would have, if he could have; but God had not given him leave to do so. Satan was limited, limited by God; Praise God!!

III

"Limited With Job"

God used Satan in the afflictions of the person, and the possessions of the man Job. In Job 1:6-12, we read in verse six how that Satan must need come before God. Satan is not left to do whatever he wants to do, whenever he wants to; but must come before God to ask leave of God in the matter. "We see in verse eight that God brought up the subject of Job. God had a purpose, and that purpose was to be fulfilled.

We see in verses nine and ten that Satan knew that he could not even so much as touch Job, until such a time as that God would remove His protective hedge from around him. (Praise God! It is ever so even today). We see in verse eleven that Satan knew (even if so many cannot see it) that only the hand of God has power to change anything. Satan said to God, "Put forth thine hand now and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face."

We see in verse twelve that Satan was limited, limited as the instrument of God's power over the man Job. Satan could do so

much, and no more. God said unto Satan, "Behold all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand." When Satan wanted to touch the body of Job, he had to come again, and present himself before the Lord, to ask leave to do so. These limitations were put upon Satan by the Lord God Almighty, because Satan has no power, aside from that power given to him from the Creator.

IV

"Limited With Christ"

Satan tempted the Lord Jesus Christ in the wilderness for forty days and forty nights; he tempted Him in every way and in all ways that man is tempted, and then some. But with every temptation, there was a limitation.

Luke 4:7, "If thou wilt therefore worship me, all shall be thine." There was a condition set upon the temptation, and that condition is the limitation that God has set for the worship of Satan. And that limitation is what separates the goats from the sheep, the saved from the unsaved, the redeemed from the unredeemed, the elect of God from the reprobate.

I Corinthians 10:13, "There hath no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man. But God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

God provided a way of escape for His son, the Lord Jesus Christ. That was was to refuse to worship Satan. We have that same way of escape! How terrible it is to hear men worship Satan, and that's what they do when they proclaim Him as equal to, and oftentimes more powerful than God.

V

"Limited With The Saints"

When the saints of God are tempted, and tempted they will be, God has provided that same way of escape; but God has also done more than that. I Corinthians 10:13 tells us that God is faithful to His saints. God will not suffer Satan to tempt you beyond that which you are able to bear. Satan is limited in what he can tempt the saints with. And even with the temptation, God gives you a way out. You can say "yes" to sin, which is the temptation put there by Satan, and worship him or you can say "no," I will not bow down to temptation, down to Satan. That's the way of escape, it's put there by God.

Satan tempts man, man is never tempted by God. James 1:13, "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil neither tempteth He any man." Satan tempts a man through man's own evil desires, and the lust of the flesh; but praise be to God, God limits the power of Satan in those temptations. The mind of man could not even begin to comprehend the conditions that this world would be in if God were not in control over Satan. And I mean in total control.

VI

"Limited To The Purpose of God"

Satan is a creation of God; created for the purpose of God. Isaiah 45:7, "I form the light, and create darkness, I make peace and create evil; I the Lord do all these things." God created Satan; he is that evil, the darkness that evil men run to, "For their deeds are evil."

But Satan is limited in the evil work that he can do.

But Satan would have you to believe that he is as powerful as the Lord God Almighty. That's why he has his ministers today who are evermore proclaiming his power right along with the power of God, as if they too were equal in power. These false apostles, deceitful workers, would have you to believe that God and Satan were in combat; but nothing could be further from the truth.

Yes, every day we wrestle, as Ephesians 6:12 tells us, "Not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." We wrestle with Satan, but God doesn't!

And we know that we can win out over Satan! We that are the chosen of God, quickened in the spirit of Truth. We know that if we will "Submit ourselves therefore unto God, resist the Devil, and He will flee from you" (James 4:7). Satan has no power over those that resist him, he is limited to only those that resist him not.

VII

"Limited In Time"

The limitations that God has put upon Satan are without equal. God has even limited the time in which Satan has to do his work of evil in weakening the nations.

Revelation 12:12 (spoken to those that are saved, and removed from the face of the earth, to dwell in their heavenly homes, before that terrible time of tribulation begins upon the earth) says, "Therefore rejoice, ye heavens and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, heaving great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

Even in the great tribulation, Satan is limited. Revelation 13th chapter tells us of the beast that will rise out of the sea, how that he shall be wounded, and his deadly wound shall be healed, for forty-two months most of the world will worship the beast; verse five tells us then that "There was given unto him a mouth, speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue for forty and two months." Satan has not the power to continue in anything, he must receive that power from the only one that has all power. Verse seven tells us that Satan will be given power to make war with the saints, and to overcome them. He can't do it, except he receive power to do so. Verse eight tells us that the world will worship him; but even in this, he is limited praise be to God! "Those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life, slain from before the foundation of the world." Will not worship the beast.

Satan's time is truly limited, and Satan knows it. That's why there are so many deceivers in the ministry today. That's why we are not to marvel. "For Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." And his ministers, also, look like the ministers of righteousness, but in truth are of their father the Devil. Oh! how I praise God for the limitations that He has put upon Satan, and upon Satan's ministers.

God said to us, by the mouth of Paul, as he wrote to Timothy, that the time would come when men would not endure sound doctrine, that they would turn from the truth to fables. Any

doctrine, any teaching that removes the power and the glory from God, and gives it to creatures of God's creation, be they human, or be they spiritual, is a fable. It's a lie! God keep us from the lie. May the God of Truth bless you!

SERVETUS

(Continued from Page 1)

restitutio (1546). This book, besides denouncing the doctrine of the Trinity, made plain many of Servetus' other beliefs.

What were Servetus' beliefs, then? He claimed that the Holy Spirit was a power emanating from God, not a person of the Godhead. Servetus affirmed that whenever Christ is called "Son" in the Bible, it always means "Son of man," never "Son of God." He believed that there was a progressive incarnation of God in the world, until the world would eventually be defied and God be mundified. He held that men became divine, that the incarnation took place in human beings, through an inner and outer baptism. He opposed predestination. He denounced justification by faith. He appealed to private revelations. He claimed to be the Michael of Revelation 12:7. He claimed to know that the millennial reign of Christ was about to begin. He denied original sin. It was the idea of One God existing as the three persons of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, however, that received the brunt of his attacks.

To one pastor who taught God's sovereignty and the tri-personality of the One God Servetus wrote: "Your Gospel is without true faith, without good works; instead of the one God you have a trinitarian Cerberus, instead of the true faith an imagined fate... Woe to you, woe, woe!" (Cerberus was a mythical three-headed dog who guarded the gate of Hades).

On August 13, 1553, Servetus entered Geneva. His detection and arrest followed swiftly. Why did Servetus come to Geneva, surely a place of extreme danger? Several pieces of evidence suggest that Servetus had been in prior communication with friends of his in Geneva, and it was thought to be quite probable that in a contest with Calvin, Servetus would be the winner! It was at this time that Calvin did not hold majority sway with the governing bodies or the citizenry of Geneva.

Two councils governed Geneva: The Large Council of Two Hundred and the Little Council of Twenty-Five. The decision of the fate of Servetus was left up to the Little Council. The Little Council was made up of three kinds of people; the Libertines, who bitterly opposed Calvin; the faithful who were sympathetic to Calvin's wishes; and the moderates, who would side either way in any particular controversy. One incident that demonstrates that the Little Council was not in the pocket of the preachers in general, or of Calvin in particular, surrounded one Philibert Berthelier. The pastors asked to exercise church discipline over Berthelier who had been in a drunken brawl and had menacingly chased a preacher to his house. The Little Council, which had authority over such matters, refused the request of the pastors to bar Berthelier from the Lord's table until he showed repentance. This was in September 1553, during the middle of the pro-

cedings against Servetus!

The Little Council decided to write to the other cantons of Protestant Switzerland for their advice on how to deal with Servetus. After all, two years earlier, these towns had recommended "moderation" in dealing with Bolsec, who derided election and predestination. Berne in particular had a record of non-sympathy for concerns of Calvin. How did the cities reply? Zurich: "No severity is too great to punish such an offense." Schaffhausen: "Stop the evil, otherwise his blasphemies, like a crawfish, will eat away the members of Christ!" Basel: "If he persists in his folly, then use the power which is entrusted to you by God to prevent him by force from any further injury to the Church of Christ." And finally Berne: "We pray that God may give you wisdom and courage to expunge this pest from the churches."

The Little Council was not prepared for the severity of these replies, nor their unanimity. It seems that rather than risk a civil war with the rest of Switzerland, political wisdom dictated a vote of condemnation.

The Little Council met on October 26, 1553, with twenty present. Ami Perrin presided, a Libertine. He opened the meeting with the proposal that Servetus go off scot-free. This was voted down. He then moved that the handling of this case be given to the Council of Two Hundred. This motion also failed. Finally they voted, a majority (and Calvin had no vote, he was not on the Council), to execute Servetus by fire. The formal decision gave the religious reasons for the condemnation in these words... "Inasmuch as you... have been accused of terrible blasphemies against the holy Trinity, against the Son of God and other principles of the Christian faith, whereas you have called the Trinity a devil and a monster with three heads... you called faithful Christians atheists and magicians..."

It is true that one of the charges brought against Servetus was that he taught against infant baptism. However, the degree to which this particular charge contributed to his overall condemnation may be clarified by an examination of its relative place in all the charges. There were a total of 38 charges brought against Servetus, and the great majority of them had to do with his views concerning Christ and the Trinity. One charge, number 37 in this list, stated that Servetus was against infant baptism, and that Servetus taught that no human being committed a mortal sin until the age of twenty. From these facts it appears to be conclusive that Servetus was not condemned merely because he was against infant baptism.

Calvin, perhaps reasoning from his interpretation of such passages as Deuteronomy 13:1-11 and Romans 13:4, believed that it was right to put to death a tried and convicted heretic. However, Calvin and the other pastors of Geneva petitioned the little Council to change the method of execution from the slow and painful burning to a swift and merciful (in comparison) decapitation. The Little Council turned down the unanimous request of Geneva's pastors, and Servetus was burned in Champel, October 27, 1553.

STUDIES IN EZEKIEL

Willard Willis, Monroe, Ohio

Missionary To
New Guinea
Eld. Fred T. Halliman



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14).

"Violence is risen up into a rod of wickedness: none of them shall remain, nor of their multitude, nor of any of theirs: neither shall there be wailing for them" (v. 11).

"Violence" here is said to be a "rod", or the rod which punishes the guilty. Violence is risen up, or set in motion like a dog that arises from sleep and runs to attack a person.

Webster states that "wicked" can mean "fierce" or "vicious". I have to assume then that the passage, in part, can read, "violence is risen up into, or for fierce punishment."

"...none of them shall remain, nor of their multitude, nor of any of theirs: neither shall there be wailing for them" (v. 11).

The violence which would come with the siege by Nebuchadnezzar, would be so fierce that none would remain. One third, in fact, would be slain with the sword; one third would be burned and one third would be scattered. The extent of the violence would be so great that none would be left to wail or mourn the loss of the dead and the dying. Each would have to die alone without the consolation of loved ones or friends. This is the direct opposite to the manner of the Jews relative to the dying and the dead. The following passage shows such to be true.

"And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother" (John 11:19).

"The time is come, the day draweth near: let not the buyer rejoice, nor the seller mourn: for wrath is upon all the multitude thereof" (v. 12).

"The time is come" reminds me of the old West when the culprit was brought to the gallows to be hung. It could surely be said that the time had come for him to pay for his crime.

"...Let not the buyer rejoice or the seller mourn: for wrath is upon all the multitude."

The seller, who was required to sell because of debts, need not mourn the loss of his property until the day of jubilee. He need not mourn, because the buyer would not get to use the property either. This was because God's wrath was upon all the multitude.

"For the seller shall not return to that which is sold, although they were yet alive: for the vision is touching the whole multitude thereof which shall not return; neither shall any strengthen himself in the iniquity of his life" (v. 13).

The seller would not return to that which was sold as was customary on the day of Jubilee (Lev. 25:13-16). He would not return even though he would be alive. This was because the nation had been dissolved until the "fulness of the Gentiles be come in" (Rom. 11:25).

"...Neither shall any strengthen himself in the iniquity of his life."

This passage is saying that hardening one's self in sin would not make one immune from God's wrath. This kind of action, in fact, would only assure it all the more.

"They have blown the trumpet, even to make all battle: for my wrath is upon all the multitude thereof" (v.

It is obvious from the scripture that preparations for war had been made, but the men would not hear the call to arms. It reminds one of the draft evaders we had during the war in Viet Nam. God said in the passage before us that the men wouldn't fight because God's wrath was upon them. We see then that even draft evaders are the result of God's anger against a nation.

"The sword is without, and the pestilence and the famine within: he that is in the field shall die with the sword; and he that is in the city, famine and pestilence shall devour



Willard Willis

him" (7:15).

America has always been blessed in that our wars, except the Civil War, have been without our country. We have not suffered from the pestilence and famine within and neither have those in the field died by the stroke of the sword. We can be sure then that it is God who blesses a land, or withholds His blessings. We therefore should sing from the bottom of our hearts, "God Bless America."

"But they that escape of them shall escape, and shall be on the mountains like doves of the valley, all of them mourning, every one for his iniquity" (7:16).

We have observed the fate of those who were cut off entirely. Now we are to observe the fate of those who escape. We see that their sentence may have been worse than death. They, in fact, become fugitives and vagabonds who lived in constant fear for their lives. They also carried with them a deep-felt guilt because of that which they had done against God. They had not become like the doves of the valley, that is, scared of their shadows and finding no permanent place for their feet to rest.

"All hands shall be feeble, and all knees shall be weak as water" (7:17).

Feeble hands would not be able to wield the sword and feeble knees would not allow them to run from the sword or into battle. May we know that the gift of a strong will and the gift of strength comes from our God. Every good gift and every perfect gift, in fact, are from the Almighty. Strong men may flex their muscles and run like deer now, but God can make their hands weak and their knees as weak as water. It was so of those before us. They were not able to stand their ground against the Babylonian Army.

We may add that all those who find themselves before the Great White Throne of Judgment will find that their hands are feeble and their knees as weak as water.

"They shall also gird themselves with sackcloth, and horror shall cover them; and shame shall be upon all faces, and baldness upon all their heads" (7:18).

They had been riding high in the saddle, but now their horse has thrown them and they have landed in the deep mire. It is as stated in the following passage:

"And it shall come to pass, that instead of sweet smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle a rent; and instead of well set hair baldness; and instead of a stomacher a girding of sackcloth; and burning instead of beauty" (Isa. 3:24).

"They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the Lord: They shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels: because it is the stumbling block of their iniquity" (7:19).

We should all be aware of the fact that one's wealth works for a person only because God has decreed it to be so. The bank can stop payment on a check and God can prevent a person's wealth from being of any value. The wealth, in fact, of those before us would not keep them from the fire or from the sword, neither would it keep them from being scattered. Their stomachs, in spite of their wealth, would still cry out for food.

"Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death" (Prov. 11:4).

We are fully aware that silver and gold are of no value to the dead. Here, however, it wasn't even of any value to the living. We see then that if God is against us, no one can be for us. On the other hand, if God be for us, then no one can be against us.

"...it is the stumbling block of their iniquity" (7:19).

They had used silver and gold to make idols. It was also that in which they trusted for a safe and secure future. It, however, became of no more value than dirt.

We are to observe from the passages before us that every phase of their being was to be affected by the siege. Their property (v. 12) was effected. Their will to resist (v. 14) was effected. Their food (v. 15) was effected. Their security (v. 16) was effected. Their safety (v. 17) was effected. Their pride (v. 18) was effected. Their money (v. 19) was effected.

"As for the beauty of his ornament, he set in majesty: but they made the images of their abominations and of their detestable things therein: therefore have I set it far from them" (7:20).

God had honored the people greatly by setting His sanctuary among them. It was that beautiful house where the people were to worship their God.

"Our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee, is burned up with fire: and all our pleasant things are laid waste" (Isa. 64:11).

The temple was called "The Beauty of Holiness", and holiness is the beauty of its ornament. His house was also adorned with gifts of gold and as such, was "set in majesty". We see,

then, why it was such a great dishonor to God when they profaned His sanctuary.

Our Lord's church is the "holy and beautiful house" among us today. May we be sure that the church to which we belong is the Lord's church and that the doctrine there is the Lord's doctrine. May we be very cautious so that no heresy is brought into the Lord's beautiful house, that is, His body the church.

The Jews, according to the passage before us (v. 20), "made the images of their abominations," that is, they made images of their counterfeit deities. This is why God termed them "abominations and their detestable things." The result was that God set His temple "far from them." The temple, in fact, was plundered by the Chaldeans. They had it for a prey and for a spoil. All of its ornaments and treasures fell into the hands of the Chaldeans so that there was the loss of worship as well as great treasures. The enemy, in fact, raped the sanctuary. It is as stated in the following passage:

"Lift up thy feet unto the perpetual desolations; even all that the enemy hath done wickedly in the sanctuary" (Psa. 74:3).

The chapter before us continues to state relative to the sanctuary:

"And I will give it into the hands of the strangers for a prey, and to the wicked of the earth for a spoil; and they shall pollute it. My face will I turn also from them, and they shall pollute my secret place: for the robbers shall enter into it, and defile it" (7:21, 22).

The Lord's house today (His church) will never be given over to strangers for a prey and for a spoil. This blessed promise is recorded in the following passage:

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

The Lord's church will remain until He presents it to himself a glorious church as stated in Ephesians 5:27:

"That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

"Make a chain: for the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence" (7:23).

The chain is to be made so as to drag the guilty to the judge. We use handcuffs today. A chain was to be made so as to bring all of Israel before God's bar of justice. The reason being that "the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence."

"Wherefore I will bring the worst of the heathen, and they shall possess their houses: I will also make the pomp of the strong to cease; and their holy places shall be defiled" (7:24).

This was God's sentence to the law breaker and what a sentence it was. Their houses were to be taken over by the worst of the enemy. Those who had never worked and sweated for them — those who were vile and wretched would now sit in their seat and put their filthy feet under their table and lay

their vile bodies on their soft beds... The Jews, while this was going on, were to march in chains to the bar of God's justice.

"Destruction cometh; and they shall seek peace, and there shall be none" (7:25).

The Babylonians were coming. The Jews would seek peace with them by using every means at their command, but there was to be no peace, because God was against them. It was not only that "destruction cometh," or is on the way, but it would do its work so that all would be punished to the extent that all would know that the Almighty was the Lord God.

"Mischief shall come upon mischief, and rumour shall be upon rumour; then shall they seek a vision of the prophet; but the law shall perish from the priest, and counsel from the ancients" (7:26).

The situation was to become so grave that the priest would not be able to give any words of comfort and the wise old men would be at their wits end. The people, in fact, would seek a vision from the prophet — a vision that all would end well — a vision that their sorrows were just for a night and that joy would arrive in the morning.

"The king shall mourn, and the prince shall be clothed with desolation, and the hands of the people of the land shall be troubled: I will do unto them after their way, and according to their deserts will I judge them; and they shall know that I am the Lord" (7:27).

It is not only that the priests would have no words of comfort and the ancients would have no words of wisdom, or the prophets have no vision of comfort, but even the king of the land would be in mourning and the prince would be clothed with desolation. The "hands of the people," the hands which or-

(Continued on Page 8 Column 1)

TUNE IN TO THE CALL TO CALVARY

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

EZEKIEL

(Continued from Page 7)

dinarily would be wielding the sword for defense, would be troubled and confused so that they were all ripe for slaughter. The end result would be that the people would remember that which they had forgotten, that is, "I am the Lord."

WHAT

(Continued from Page 1)

Every year about this time awards are given by the worldly musical industry for outstanding work in the musical field. These awards are called the "Grammys". Michael Jackson, a young man 25 years of age, who wears longish curly hair, clothes (notice picture in Time Magazine, page 55) that look somewhat effeminate, and sings in the high tenor range sounding like a woman, won eight Grammy Awards, as far as it is known, the most every by one person. These awards were won for music that is described by Jane Fonda in this fashion, "His music is energetic and sensual, you can dance to it, work out to it, make love to it, sing to it. It is hard to sit still to." His latest record called "Thriller" has sold more than 30 million copies, selling at the present time one million per week. This is the fastest selling record in America, Japan, and South Africa. His music is being bought by people of all races, closing the gaps and breaking down barriers and prejudice. When asked about his life style and appearance, he is quick to refer to the Bible. At the awards show that appeared on TV, he put on the suit of a politician, being everything to everyone, while he sat by a famous young movie star, Brooke Shields.

Music and its beat are a powerful force in our world. They draw people of all nationalities together. America is now hearing, accepting, and excited about the music that comes to us from the jungles of Africa. When you turn on the radio or watch TV, this is the music you will mostly hear. Some of it is called "Country", but it doesn't sound American to me. A group called Alabama, that is winning the awards, doesn't sound like Gene Autry singing, "Back in the Saddle Again." The jungle music is influencing many of the decisions that we make. Everything that is evil and imagined in the heart (Mark 7:21-22) is being put forth in the form of song and taught by use of rock music to those who will listen. The newest tragedy, which has just come out and is sweeping the market, is called videotapes. If you are not knowledgeable on this item, let me explain what it is. They tape a song on a soundtrack; then, they make a picture where the words of the song are acted out.

The equipment works with the TV set. Michael Jackson has made one that goes with his song "Thriller." It also is the fastest

selling video on the market. It sells for around thirty dollars and pictures Michael Jackson as a werewolf in a body something like Peter Pan. I do not quite understand this; and even as I look at the picture in Time, it still makes absolutely no sense to me. I would like to add that I read an article in our local newspaper; and it stated that these videotapes show more violence and sex and the misuse of the same in thirty minutes than you would see watching TV in an entire week even if you have cable and HBO. The tapes are totally made to show the worst things that can be imagined by man. They take the dirtiest of songs to make their visual tape. This new industry will destroy the minds and morals of those who watch and listen. Our young people are their targets; and we had better keep our children away from this filthy junk. The music is bad; the visual aid is worse; putting these together multiplies its power to persuade.

The problem continues to grow. We find the churches trying to draw attention to themselves, attracting the young people by using this kind of music in their services. In other cases, we find churches and other groups holding what they call gospel concerts. I do not consider this kind of music associated with the Gospel. Rock music is rock music; it does not matter what words are being put with the tune. "How I Luv Ya, Let's Do It" or "Amazing Grace," it is still rock. The music of the jungle and the world do not belong in the church. I cannot put rock, country, contemporary and gospel in the same sentence. We should not do as the Catholics and others who have incorporated the evil practices of the heathen to enlarge their churches. If you bring the world and its music into your church, they will not be excited by your preaching. You will end up with a church that has so much of the world in it, you will not be able to tell the difference between the church and the world.

I have written a series of articles on the persuasive power of music. It has a great deal more information on this subject.

These articles are in a paper called the Scripture Notes, and if you have not seen them, you may obtain them free of charge. Write me at 801 Cambridge Street, Birmingham, Ala. 35224. Pray for us!

YOUR CHURCH GARDEN

First: Plant five rows of Peas. Presence, Promptness, Preparation and Perseverance.

Next: Plant three rows of Squash.

Squash gossip, Squash criticism, Squash indifference. Then: Plant four rows of Lettuce.

Let us be on time, Let us be true to our obligations.

Let us be loyal and unselfish, Let us love one another. No garden is complete, of course, without Turnips.

Turn up for services, Turn up on time. Turn up with a smile, Turn up with visitors, Turn up with determination to make everything count for something good and worthwhile.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Rehoboth Missionary Baptist Church of Dryden, Virginia will have revival services beginning Sunday, June 11th at 7:00 p.m., and going through Sunday June 17th at the morning service. The visiting speaker will be Elder Oscar B. Mink of Texarkana, Texas. The pastor is Elder Edmund Dempsey. Readers of this paper are urged to attend these services if possible. For further information, contact Edmund Dempsey at (615) 928-4775 or Hirman Jones at 546-1981 at Dryden, Va.

The New Testament Baptist Church of Bristol, Tenn. will have revival services beginning on Sunday, June 17th at 7:30 p.m. and continuing through Friday, June 22nd. Elder Oscar Mink of Texarkana, Tex. will be the visiting preacher. Elder Dan Phillips is the pastor. Readers of this paper are urged to attend these services. For further information call Dan Phillips (615) 764-3771.

THE THOUGHT FOR MY DAY

Ervin Perdue
Detroit, Mi.

Men may dream, yet men must die,
Knowing not, life's future.
If in their heart God's love applied,
His love will make us mature.

God sent His Son to show our way,
His blood insured us life forever.
May we live for Him each day.
In death He will deliver.

Our life from God was granted.
Its sweetness every day.
As flower seed was planted,
To take world's gloom away.

Tho the world has sinful pleasure,
That soon will fade away.
And all of earthly treasure.
For sin can never pay.

We know not our days of time.
Let us live like flowers bloom.
God's gift for life may ever shine,
Above world's sinful gloom.

WHAT I BELIEVE THE BIBLE TEACHES

by Earl McCarter
Bristol, Tenn.

I shall endeavor to give an answer to a question frequently asked me: "What do you believe the Bible teaches?"

The Bible is the "inspired word of God" (II Peter 1:21; II Timothy 3:16). It is without error as originally written the Genesis accounts of creation and the fall of man (Genesis 1; 2; 3) that man is totally depraved (Romans 1:21-32); all are lost unless born again (John 3:3); that salvation is by grace (Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:21).

The sovereignty of God (Daniel 4:35, Psalm 135:6), foreknowledge (Romans 11:1-8), predestination (Romans 8:28-34), election (Ephesians 1:4, Jeremiah 1:5, Romans 9:8-13), effectual calling (Psalm 65:4), justification and glorification and that whosoever will may come and that those do not contradict each other (Revelation 22:17).

The church is local and visible. She has the Bible for her one and only rule of faith and practice (II Timothy 3:16-17). The decisions of a church are final and no other church or any organization has any right to interfere with her decisions. There is no such thing as an invisible universal church.

The security of the believer (Romans 8:1, I John 3:9, John 17:2, John 5:24), that all saved people are Baptists if they believe the Bible. That Jesus Christ organized a church while on earth during His personal ministry (Matthew 16:18). He gave that church her commission (Matthew 28:19-20). There

are only two church ordinances: Baptism and The Lord's Supper. Baptism is "immersion of a saved person into water upon the authority of a true Baptist church. The Lord's Supper is restricted to each local church. The elements are wine and unleavened bread (I Corinthians 11:23-24).

The way to finance the Lord's work is by tithes and offerings (Genesis 14:20, II Corinthians 9:7). Each local church can give her money where she chooses and that without interference from anyone.

Missionary money should not be used to support unsound missionaries, seminaries or colleges. All churches should be missionary. The ordaining of preachers or deacons is to be done by a local church only.

That women should keep silent in the church assembly (I Timothy 2:8-15, Titus 2:3-5). That God calls only men to preach the Gospel or to be deacons in the local church. The premillennial second coming of Christ (I Thessalonians 4:16-18, Acts 1:10-11). That Heaven is a real place (Revelation 4:1). That Hell is a real place (Isaiah 14:9). The Trinity of God (Matthew 28:19). The Devil is a person (Job 1:6, Job 2:1-7).

There will be two resurrections, one of the just, and one of the unjust, and that the two are One Thousand years apart (I Corinthians 15:52, I Thessalonians 4:15-18, Revelation 20:5).

May the Holy Spirit of Almighty God give you, dear reader, an illumination of the revelation of God unto salvation!

IS ABORTION MURDER?

A mother stepped into the doctor's office carrying a bright and beautiful baby a year old. Seating herself near her family physician, she said, "Doctor, I want you to help me out of trouble. My baby is only one year old, and I have conceived again, and I do not want to have children so close together."

"What do you expect me to do?" asked the physician.

"Oh, anything to get ride of it for me," she replied.

After thinking seriously for a moment the doctor said, "I think I can suggest a better method of helping you out. If you object to having two children so near together, the best way would be to kill the one on your lap, and let the other one come on. It is easy to get at the one on your lap, and it makes no difference to me which

one I kill for you. Besides, it might be dangerous for you if I undertook to kill the younger one.

As the doctor finished speaking he reached for a knife, and continued by asking the mother to lay the baby out on her lap, and turn her head the other way.

The woman almost fainted away as she jumped from her chair and uttered one word, "Murderer!"

A few words of explanation from the doctor soon convinced the mother that his offer to commit murder was no worse than her request for the destruction of the unborn child. In either case it would be murder. The only difference would be in the age of the victim.

—Copied

COUNTING MY BLESSINGS

by Sharon White Robertson
Jasper, Ala.

I awoke this morning and got out of bed,
I walked to my window and saw the beautiful day ahead.
I heard the birds singing a special song,
So following their tune I sung along.
I put on my clothes, ready to start the day,
And over breakfast I did pray.
Looking into the healthy faces of my children,
I saw another gift from God that He did send.
So bowing my head another prayer I did say,
God sure has blessed me good today.