

THE NECESSITY
OF
MISSION WORK

by Medford Caudill
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Missionary work is not a luxury which churches may undertake if they have the inclination, time, or finances. Mission work is a necessity for the Lord's churches. It must be done at all costs and must be undertaken immediately under any and all circumstances.

Mission work is a necessity because all mankind is in sin. As



Medford Caudill

sovereign grace Baptists we believe that the Bible teaches total depravity. In the words of Romans 3:10,11: "There is none righteous, no, not one: there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God." Again we read, "For we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin" (Romans 3:9). All men everywhere are born sinners. All men everywhere are in rebellion against the God who created the universe. The sinfulness of man makes mission work a necessity.

Mission work is a necessity because there is no salvation outside of the preaching of the gospel. Men are lost and will stay lost if the gospel is not preached. We have no example given us in the New Testament of anyone who was regenerated, saved, converted, born again without the preaching of the gospel. "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (I Corinthians 1:21). "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Romans 10:14).

How were you saved? How did you come to a knowledge of the truth? Did you see a vision in the sky? Were you told about Jesus Christ by way of a dream? Did you simply look up at the sun and moon and realize that they must have been made by someone and then come to the conclusion that Jehovah must have made them and then

(Continued on Page 3 Column 2)

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MISSIONARY

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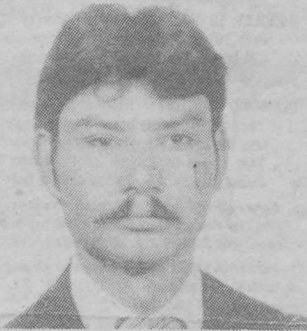
BIBLICAL

BAPTISTIC

REVIVAL

by Peter Halliman

Ps. 85:4-6. "Turn us, O God of our salvation and cause thine anger toward us to cease. Wilt thou be angry with us forever? Wilt thou draw out thine anger to all generations? Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?" As we think about our subject the question comes to mind, "What is Revival? The term 'Revival' is one which is most misunderstood. People usually refer it to a time when dead sinners are saved during evangelistic meetings. They refer it to a time when we should go out and get people to come to



Peter Halliman

the services to hear the Word that they might be saved. Well, this is most important, and we should do this, but the true meaning of Revival is not that. The lost being saved may be a by-product of Revival but this by no means defines true Revival.

The most simple Bible definition of Revival that I know of is found in Acts 3:19, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;" Let us see if we can bring it out more clearly. It is God manifesting himself through saved people. (You and I that are saved) It is His Redeeming power bursting forth in fruits of righteousness and holiness. It is God revealing Himself in awful holiness and irresistible power. It is such a manifest working of God that human personalities are overshadowed and human programs abandoned. It is man retiring into the background because God has taken the field.

Revival, strictly speaking, means the reanimating of that which is already living but in a state of declension. A dead sinner needs regeneration not reanimation--for reanimation means to fill with life, to enliven, fill with spirit. A dead sinner needs to be quickened and made alive, to be born with a new nature. A dead sinner cannot be revived with that which he does not have. There can be no reviving of that which has no life to revive. To make evangelism a synonym of revivalism is untrue to the teaching of the New Testament. Baptist Churches are commanded to and responsible for evangelism, but not revival. We have a summons to evangelize, but for revival we are cast on the almighty sovereign grace of God. "Revival" is that strange wonderful and sovereign work of God in which He visits His own people, restoring, reanimating, and releasing them into the fullness of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. Revival is a time when backslidden Christians get right with God Almighty. We talk about

(Continued on Page 5 Column 1)

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

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THEN CAME AMALEK

by Ron Boswell
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"Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim" (Exodus 17:8). This message grows out of many years of studying this text. I was talking to a Christian lady many years ago about preachers that we had both known. She said she remembered a certain preacher because he came to their church and preached on "Then Came Amalek". I thought it a strange text and asked what he had made of it. She replied, "A great deal." Since then, I have been studying this text to find what could be made of it. Like the lady, I have found it to contain a great deal. The lessons to be drawn from our text are invaluable to the child of God.

I. THIS WAS ISRAEL'S FIRST BATTLE. They had



Ron Boswell

been redeemed through the Blood of the Lamb. They had been brought out of Egypt by the power of God. Then God led them the long way instead of the shorter way because they had not yet seen war. "And it came

to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistine, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt" (Exodus 13:17). Perhaps I am speaking to one recently saved. Like the children of Israel, God has made the Blood of the Lamb precious to you and separated you from the world as He separated Israel from Egypt. Everything is going good for you and it may for a while, but sooner or later, Amalek will arrive and you will know warfare. You may feel that you do not need this message but you will. God is leading you the long way as He did Israel, but eventually we read "Then came Amalek."

(Continued on Page 3 Column 3)

FISHING WITHOUT A LICENSE

by Carl C. Jenkins, Sr.

I would like to call your attention to the basis for this subject as found in Matthew 4:18-19. "And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And He saith unto them, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." I would have you notice that these men were brethren in the Lord as well as being brothers in the flesh. They were casting a net into the sea because they were fishermen by trade. They were men who had

the authority to fish, and were also men who desired to make a catch.



Carl C. Jenkins, Sr.

With our present laws in the state of Tennessee, it makes no

difference whether you fish for pleasure or for profit, it is unlawful to wet a net or bait a hook and drop it into the waters without a license authorizing you to do so. Without the license, one is fishing without a license.

Jesus spoke to these men of our text and said "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." The command to these two is the same command that He makes to all those He calls to be fishers of men, and that is to "follow me." No one can follow Christ without the call to follow Him for that purpose. Neither can one truly hear such a call

(Continued on Page 5 Column 3)

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Joseph M. Wilson

JESUS AND LAZARUS

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" (John 11:25-26).

This text is taken from the middle of the story of one of the great miracles of the life of Jesus Christ. It was in many ways a climactic miracle. Lazarus was sick. His sisters sent word thereof to Jesus, no doubt believing He could, and hoping He would come and heal Lazarus. Jesus abode where He was two more days. Lazarus died. Oh, the disappointment and sorrow of Mary and Martha, his sisters! Jesus had not come. Lazarus had died. Lazarus was buried amidst the sorrow of loved ones. Four days

after Lazarus's death, Jesus came to the home of Martha and Mary. Almost reproachfully, Martha said to Jesus, "...Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." (John 11:21). Jesus told her, "...Thy brother shall rise again" (John 11:23). Martha stated her belief in the resurrection, but could not rise to faith for a present miracle. In this story we have those always precious words, "Jesus wept" (11:35). Jesus then performed the mighty miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead. What a picture is this of Jesus raising dead sinners, who are the object of His electing love, from their spiritual death!

Note a couple of things to start with. The Bible says, "Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus" (John

11:5). Yet this great sorrow came into their lives. Let us learn from this that great sorrow coming upon us does not mean that Jesus does not love us. The devil would tempt us to think so. Our weak faith might often think so. However, it is not true. His love for His own is eternal and unchanging. He has given the highest demonstration of that love in dying for our sins and saving our souls. No suffering or sorrow of providence can change the fact of that great love. Dear child of God, never doubt His love, no matter what He might see fit to allow to come into your life. Then note the power of Jesus Christ manifested in this miracle. Oh, the magnitude of His power! Nothing is outside the reach and effectiveness of God's power.

(Continued on Page 2 Column 1)

Good books are the most precious of blessings to a people; bad books are among the worst of curses.

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JOSEPH M. WILSON, EDITOR

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JESUS

(Continued from Page 1)

Our greatest needs can be met by the exercise of His power. Let us feed our faith on contemplations of the love and power of Jesus Christ. Our hope for time and eternity is in the love and power of Jesus Christ. Now let us note three things about Jesus and Lazarus in this message. Now let us note three things about Jesus and Lazarus in this message.

1. Jesus could have kept Lazarus from getting sick, but He did not. Sickness is under the absolute control of our sovereign Lord. He sends it where He will, and for the accomplishing of His own eternal purpose. Sickness is never out of His hand. Sickness is not an accident beyond His control. Sickness never comes except it be sent or allowed by our blessed Lord. Oh, we need to learn this lesson. We dread sickness. We complain about sickness. We rebel against being sick. Let us remember that all sickness is under the absolute control of our Lord. It will certainly ease the pain, lighten the load, and quieten the spirit if we will realize that sickness comes from the hands of our all-wise, all-powerful, ever-loving Lord.

He is sovereign as to who is to be sick. Let us not complain if we seem to have more than our share of sickness. Let us not be envious of our brother who has never been sick a day in his life. Let us bow in adoring worship of our sovereign Lord. There is method and divine wisdom behind every affliction of the child of God. He is sovereign as to what sickness one has. All diseases are under His control. Not one of them can come upon a person apart from His permission. Each affliction upon any one of the children of men is governed by the eternal counsel of His sovereign will.

He is sovereign as to how long one shall be sick. He can terminate each illness at the moment of time He so pleases. The brief, rapidly healed sickness is an act of His mercy. He will be

with His own through the long days of a lengthened illness. The results of each sickness is under His control. The sickness may be healed and leave no lasting after effects. It may seriously injure one's health for the rest of his life. It may end in death. All these things are under the control of our Lord.

You see how easily Jesus could have kept Lazarus from getting sick, but He did not. Sometimes sickness of the unsaved is used of the Lord to turn his mind and attention from earthly to heavenly things. Sometimes sickness is used in bringing one to the salvation experience. Of course no one is saved by sickness. Salvation is by the effectual work of the Holy Spirit using the glorious gospel of the blessed God. But the sovereign Lord also uses other things in bringing one to the salvation experience. Dan Phillips lost his oldest son. What a sorrow! The Lord used this to



Joe Wilson

turn his mind to spiritual and eternal things in bringing him to salvation. I had a friend who lost his arm in a cotton mill accident. During the long days of pain and recovery he was caused to consider spiritual and eternal things and brought to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

God has a purpose in every sickness of one of His children. He uses sickness to try them. "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10). The Lord uses sickness to wean His own from too much love of this world, to turn their attention to heavenly things, to purify the dross from their lives and make them as refined gold, precious in His sight. He uses sickness to draw the believer closer to Himself. Who can tell how many times a wandering sheep has been brought closer to the Shepherd by sickness? Sickness may be as the sheep dog, nipping at the heels of the sheep, keeping it from forbidden paths and moving it closer to the Shepherd. The song says, "E'en though it be a cross that raises me." Yes, many of God's children are drawn closer to Him by means of some sickness. How prayerful the child of God becomes during the time of sickness! And how others are brought to much prayer because of one's sickness! Many times children of God are brought closer together and closer to the Lord through the sickness of one of them.

Sickness is often a means whereby the Lord demonstrates to His child His great love and power. Oh, I have seen His love in a special way, felt His power in a special way in the time of sorrow and suffering. God is with His people in their sickness. "...thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness." (Psa. 41:3). What a wonderful picture of the Lord's compassion and care for His sick child!

God will heal His people of all their sicknesses. He does this often in this life. Brother, I

believe in Divine Healing, yes I do! I believe that all healing is of God. He might use the doctor or the medicine, but if these are effective in the healing process, they are made so by God. We go to the doctor and take our medicine, but we trust in the Lord for our healing. He heals His children sometimes through death. A dear sister said to me, "I'll never get well." I replied, "Yes, you will." Some weeks later word reached me of her death. I said to myself, "She is well now." Yes, at the hour of death the child of God will be delivered from all sickness. But we shall not all sleep. We may not die. We may go in the rapture of the saints. Oh, that this would be true of all believers who read this! We are Pre-tribulationists here. We believe that, so far as we know, Jesus could come today. When Jesus comes, He will change the bodies of living believers like unto His own glorious body, and they will be immediately and eternally healed of all sickness. Through eternity all the Lord's people will have perfect health in glorified bodies. So, God will heal His people of all their sicknesses. Again, Jesus could have kept Lazarus from getting sick, but He did not.

2. Jesus could have kept Lazarus from dying, but He did not. Death is under the absolute control of our sovereign Saviour. Death will always come at the appointed time and in the appointed way. The Bible teaches, beyond controversy, that God has from eternity predestinated all things that ever come to pass. Death is certainly one of the predestinated things. "...a time to die..." (Ecc. 3:2). There is a predestinated time for each of the children of men to die. Each one will die at that exact moment—not a day earlier—not a moment later. "Is there not an appointed time to man upon the earth?" (Job 7:1). Yes, there surely is, and when that appointed time is up, man will die. "Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass" (Job 14:5). From these Scriptures we learn that God is sovereign over death, that He has predestinated the time of each man's death, and that man will die at that time. Our Lord is sovereign as to when, where, and how a man will die. Since our Lord is sovereign over death, He could have kept Lazarus from dying, but He did not. The fact that death is in the hands of a sovereign God should be a blessing to the believer, but strike terror into the heart of the unsaved.

"...Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord...that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them" (Rev. 14:13). "...having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better" (Phil. 1:23). These Scriptures show that death is a blessing to the child of God. To die and be with the Lord is far better than anything a man could ever attain unto on this earth. Often, when one dies, people will say, "How awful, how sad!" But if that one is saved, it is not sad for him. Rather it is the end of all sadness and the beginning of eternal, undiluted joy. For the child of God, death is the end of all sin, all suffering, all sorrow, all trials, all troubles; and the beginning of eternal blessedness without mixture. For the child of God, death is the doorway into a more wonderful place; death is his transportation to

glory. Jesus Christ has removed the sting of death for the believer, and death has become the hour of victory.

But the unsaved must die also, and what difference! For the unsaved, death is the end of all his dreams and plans, of pleasure, and of all possessions. No matter how rich the unsaved man might be, he will go into eternity as a pauper. We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain that we will take nothing out of it. Death for the child of God is a blessed event, but for the unsaved it is the

greatest tragedy possible. One is terribly sick and suffering greatly. He dies. People say, "He is at rest now, he is better off now." That all depends. Was he saved or unsaved? Nothing that can happen to a person in this world, (yea, all the bad things that could ever happen to one), is as terrible as to die without Jesus Christ and go to hell.

Let me give the appeal of Amos to any unsaved reading this, "...prepare to meet thy God..." (Amos 4:12). Dear

(Continued on Page 3 Column 1)

FROM THE EDITOR

JEALOUSY AMONG PREACHERS. Jealousy seems to be a sin to which preachers are peculiarly, especially, and predominantly susceptible. It is a sin that greatly harms the guilty preacher, his fellowship with other preachers, the churches with which he is connected, and the whole cause of Christ. I speak of the jealousy that one preacher can have towards one or more other preachers.

Sometimes a preacher is jealous of the position of another preacher. Often, when a church is without a preacher, many preachers politic for that church. Then, when someone else is called to that church, the politicking preacher who failed will be jealous. It is all right to have a holy desire to be used of the Lord in a certain position. It is wrong to be jealous of another who is called to that position.

Sometimes a preacher is jealous of another preacher's abilities. When God calls a man to preach, He gives him some ability to do the job. However, God gives abilities to His preachers according to His sovereign will. He does not give all the same ability in their preaching. Many times a preacher who has less ability than another will be very jealous of the other one. I think that I have often seen this green-eyed monster at work in this way. People will be standing around bragging on the sermon of a certain preacher. (Maybe we should not do this). Other preachers who are not being bragged upon will get jealous.

Sometimes, when a preacher has as much ability as another preacher but in a different area of preaching, he will be jealous of the other. Brethren, there are different areas of preaching. One is a great teacher. Another is a more forceful speaker. One is peculiarly gifted in certain areas of doctrine, say prophecy, or other doctrines. Often one who is truly gifted in one area will be jealous of another who is gifted in another respect.

Sometimes a preacher is jealous of the friends and following of another preacher. Some people like a certain preacher more than others. They follow this man. They delight to hear him preach. They do not appreciate or enjoy another preacher as much. They show this by their speech and actions. (Maybe they should not do this). Then other preachers become jealous of this preacher who has many friends and followers.

Sometimes a preacher is jealous of the Biblical knowledge of another preacher. God seems to give some preachers more and deeper knowledge than others, especially in certain areas of Biblical truth. A preacher may forget that another might have studied more in that area of truth. He may forget that an older preacher should have more knowledge than the younger one. (This is not always so). Still it is often true that a preacher is jealous of the Biblical knowledge of another preacher.

Some pastors will not have meetings using special speakers because of jealousy. Some pastors become very jealous of special speaker who is well liked by his church. Maybe the church shows her liking of the special speaker, and fails to show her love (though they do have it) for the pastor. This form of jealousy occurs very frequently.

Jealousy among preachers is a great sin with very harmful results. The preacher who has this sin suffers in himself. He cannot enjoy, appreciate, and fellowship with other preachers as he should. This harms his spiritual life. Jealousy harms the fellowship that should exist between preachers. Brethren, we ought to have great love for our preacher brethren. We should fellowship much with them. There is great help and strength for the preacher in this. But when a preacher is jealous he cannot be blessed by such fellowship as he otherwise could. Preachers cannot enjoy and be helped by the ministry of another preacher because of jealousy. A man may preach a great sermon that could have been a blessing to my soul. But if I am jealous of him, I lose that blessing. Sometimes, in conferences or in listening to other preachers, a jealous preacher secretly hopes the other preacher will fail. He does not and cannot pray for the one preaching as he should because he is jealous of him. Churches suffer greatly because of the sin of jealousy among preachers.

How can preachers get rid of jealousy? Bow to the sovereignty of God. Realize that the sovereign God of the Bible places His preachers as it pleases Him, gives them the abilities they have, makes them the blessing to others that they are. A jealous preacher is not practicing the sovereignty of God. Be humble. Realize that you are nothing apart from the grace of God. A truly humble man will not be jealous of another. Be thankful to God that He has called you to preach, given you a place to preach, given you some ability, and used you somewhat. The man who realizes that all he is or has comes from the grace of God, and is thankful for this, will not be a jealous man. Pray for other preachers. Get all the blessing you can out of them. Use them. Appreciate their ministry. Rejoice in their preaching, ability, usefulness. If we would pray for the other man who is preaching, seek a blessing from his preaching, we could not be jealous of him. I wonder how many blessings preachers rob themselves of by being jealous of another preacher.

Brethren, let us beware of this terrible sin among preachers. Let us love one another, fellowship with one another, hear one another, use one another, and rejoice over the abilities and successes of one another. The preacher hurts himself, other preachers, and the work of the Lord when he is a jealous preacher.

JESUS

(Continued from Page 2)

friend, are you ready to meet your God? No question can compare with this one in importance. You should prepare to meet God because you will meet Him some day, ready or not. The only preparation for meeting God is to repent of sins and trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. You should do this immediately. Are you ready to meet God? Oh, how well do I remember the sweet peace over my soul as I lay down to sleep the night God saved my soul! I knew I was ready to meet God. Prior to that I had lain down with great fear, knowing that should I die before sunrise, I would be in hell. Praise the Lord for saving grace! The important question about death is not, when will you die? Not where will you die? Not how will you die? But where will you go when you die? Oh, to have this matter of supreme importance settled forevermore!

3. Jesus could have left Lazarus in the grave, but He did not. Praise the Lord for this part of my message! Jesus went to the grave where Lazarus was buried. He stood before the grave and cried, "Lazarus, come forth." His mighty power went forth with that Word. Lazarus was made alive, raised from the dead, and came forth. This was a miracle, but it does not stagger our faith. We believe in miracles. We have no problem with the miracles of the Bible. We believe that every miracle recorded in the Bible happened exactly as described therein. We do not try to explain away the miracles of God's Word. I have a conviction strong as life within me. It is that the man who denies the miracles of the Bible has not yet been made a partaker of the saving miracle of regeneration. After all, salvation is a miracle, and if I have experienced that miracle, why should I doubt any other miracle in the Bible? The Bible is a miracle. Jesus Christ is a miracle. The gospel is a miracle. The man who does not believe in miracles does not believe in the Bible, or Jesus Christ. He does not believe the gospel, and he is not a saved man. We believe in miracles. Our hope for time and eternity is in the miracles of our God. He saved us by a miracle. He keeps us miraculously. He will raise us from the dead, or change us in the rapture by a miracle. He will transport us to heaven by a miracle. He will preserve us forever in glory by continuing miracles. Yes, we believe in miracles. Consequently, we have no difficulty believing in the resurrection of Lazarus.

However, there is more to this miracle. It is a story of a past event. It is also a prophecy of a future event. It is pictorial and prophetic of that glad and glad-some time when; "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air..." (I Thess. 4:16-17). That day will come. It will be a glorious day. And it may come at the next moment of time so far as we know. Praise the Lord! "...because I live, ye shall live also" (John 14:19). The resurrection of Jesus Christ guarantees the resurrection, in glorified bodies, of all the saved. We must as well preach a dead

Jesus, as to deny the resurrection of the saints. The believer dies. He is buried. The mourners stand around the grave watching the burial. The mourners go home with their great grief, leaving their loved one behind. But wait, this is not the final chapter. The book of the biography of that believer is not yet finished. There is another chapter to the story. That dead one shall rise from the grave in a glorified body. There shall be a reunion day. Mourning shall be turned into joy for all the children of God. Yes, Jesus could have left Lazarus in the grave, but He did not. He could leave us all in the grave, but He will not.

Now, go back and read the Scripture with which I began this article, John 11:25-26. Jesus is the resurrection and the life. He is the only source of spiritual life. One must receive Jesus Christ in order to have life. He is the resurrection, as He will resurrect all those who die in Him. Those who believe in Him, and die, will be raised from the dead. Those who believe in Him and do not die—who will be living when He comes in the rapture—will never die, but will be changed in a moment into the likeness of His own glorified body. Now, the supreme question is, do you believe in Him? This is the eternity-deciding question. If you are not saved, I appeal to you, even plead with you, "...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..." (Acts 16:31). If you are saved, meditate upon the truths of this message until they bless your soul. Jesus could have kept Lazarus from getting sick, but He did not. Jesus could have kept Lazarus from dying, but He did not. Jesus could have left Lazarus in the grave, but He did not. May God bless you all!

MISSION

(Continued from Page 1)

reasoned from that conclusion that He also sent His only begotten Son to die for your sins? Those are ridiculous questions. Someone told you about Jesus Christ. Someone gave you the gospel. Someone was enough of a missionary to tell you that Jesus Christ gave Himself as a sacrifice for His people's sins.

The church that you attend every Sunday to hear the Word of God preached and explained, how did it get here? At some time in the past someone did mission work or you wouldn't have a church. At some time in the past someone came into your community, preached the gospel, gathered together some believers, and eventually organized a New Testament Missionary Baptist Church. Someone did mission work and you benefit from it with every service that you attend. Everything that you have ever learned from the teaching of her pulpit you have ever been blessed by, every bit of fellowship you have had with her different members, every comfort she has given you in your time of sorrow, every joy you have had in seeing someone baptized into the church, every blessing from partaking of the Lord's Supper with her members—all of that has come to you as a direct result of mission work.

The Bible abounds with mission work. "The Acts Of The Apostles" is a history of the mission work of the early churches. The Apostle Paul went out as a missionary from the church at Antioch.

The greatest missionary of all

was Jesus Christ. Some have been willing to give up the comforts of home to travel to foreign lands to preach the gospel. Christ gave up heaven itself to do mission work. "But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men" (Philippians 2:7). This One who is God became flesh. This One who could command legions of angels washed the disciples' feet. The One who is king of the universe became a servant. Most of all this One who knew no sin became sin for His people. Jesus Christ gave us a great example. He is the great missionary. He gave up all for us.

Mission work is a necessity and there is clearly a need where ever we look. Count the number of towns within thirty miles of where you live. How many of them have sovereign grace, landmark, missionary Baptist churches in them? What is your church doing or what has it done in the past to establish true churches in those towns? What are the plans of your church for the future as concerns mission work in those towns?

Home missions are important and greatly needed but lift your eyes a little farther and look on the foreign fields. We say we believe that the great commission is given to New Testament churches, and I believe that with all my heart, but what are we doing to carry it out? The Pacific Islands, Africa, Asia, Europe, South America—all have areas that our churches could send missionaries to right now. We cannot give up these fields to the Catholics, Protestants and cults. The Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, the Seventh Day Adventists are everywhere spreading their lies and heresies, not to mention the Pentecostals. We need to be as interested in spreading the truth as they are in spreading their errors.

"Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35).

AMALEK

(Continued from Page 1)

The first appearance of Amalek must have been frightful for the children of Israel. This band of former slaves now being led by the living God, see their way being blocked by a fierce-looking army. The army was disciplined and well-armed; hatred for the Israelites could be seen in the face of each soldier of Amalek. Hatred was their motive and they were sent by the Devil. It was certain that Amalek would come to oppose, bringing us to our next point in this message.

II. AMALEK ALWAYS ARRIVES. The children of God shall have opposition. Of course we have opposition from our old nature and there is inner conflict. We also have opposition in the world and from the many Amaleks in the world. When the saints are among the lost, at first they are appreciated, later they are hated. We have this illustrated with David and King Saul. At first, King Saul loved David. He sent word to David's father, Jesse, asking if David could come and live in the palace. Listen:

"And David came to Saul and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armourbearer. And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight" (I Samuel 16:21, 22). All seemed

well at first, but even before a year had passed we read, "And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice." (I Samuel 18:11). At first King Saul loved David, but later he hated him.

Amalek was Esau's grandson. Jacob and Esau were twin brothers. Esau is presented in Scripture as being unsaved. They had some troubles with each other but eventually patched things up. They seemed to have had peace with each other as seen when they met to bury their father. Later the hatred would surface in Amalek. The reason that Amalek came was because he hated Israel. We read the same doctrine concerning Isaac and Ishmael. As Amalek was to Israel, so was Ishmael to Isaac. Listen:

"Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now" (Galatians 4:28, 29). Isaac was a child of promise, that is, he was promised before he was born. Every child of God is a child of promise. They have been promised to Christ before the world began. God's unconditional election has given them to Christ in the covenant of Grace. He has written their names in the Lamb's Book of Life before time began. Persecution by the unsaved is the legacy of those born again. The inevitable is that many will fight against us. Nehemiah did not wish anyone any harm. He was concerned only about the welfare of God's children. Who could possibly object to that? He sought nothing for himself. Even with the purest motives he was opposed. Listen:

"When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard of it, it grieved them exceedingly that there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel" (Nehemiah 2:10). Beloved, Amalek always arrives. It does not matter what you may do, you can not avoid being hated and persecuted. The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ does not bring unity but rather division. This makes Amalek a reality. Listen: "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household" (Matthew 10:34-36).

In contrast to this, the devil's bloodless gospel does bring unity. If you want unity you will find it here and that explains the success of the Mormons and the many other cults. When Herod and his men set Jesus at nought, they mocked Him and it was only then that Herod achieved unity with Pilate, listen: "And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves" (Luke 23:12). Whenever men set the Christ of the Bible at nought, they can have religious unity. However, we that follow the Christ of the Bible must expect Amalek. Do you not see that we should pray for one another? We are all in the same boat as far as Amalek is concerned. We must all face our Amalek.

We, of course, would like to be well thought of by all. We

would certainly not choose to be offensive to any. To be well liked and well spoken of by all is not the heritage of God's servants, but rather it is the legacy of the false prophets. Listen: "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets" (Luke 6:26). The question concerning Amalek is not "if" but rather "when" shall he come. This brings us to the third point of this message.

III. AMALEK ARRIVES AFTER THE BLESSING. After a spiritual blessing you can look for Amalek. It was true in our text. Israel had tempted the Lord and murmured against Moses when they had no water to drink. Instead of judgment, God had provided water from the smitten rock—a picture of Christ, a manifestation of Christ the smitten Rock of Ages. Grace was bestowed on an unworthy people. God smote the rock instead of the people. It was a time to rejoice in God's provided way. They had a spiritual blessing. It was at that time we read: "Then came Amalek..." (Exodus 17:8). After you have a mountaintop Christian experience, then you can expect Amalek. After you have been especially blessed at a church service, you can expect harsh words. You can expect others to assail you after you have been used of the Lord. Many could tell of how cruelly they have been treated after returning from a Bible Conference.

A church can expect trouble after new members are added. Sometimes Amalek will arrive right after a series of meetings have been concluded. We have an example in King David bringing back the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem. He had tried to bring it back on a previous occasion and had failed. It ended in disaster and disappointment because he did not do it according to the Word of God. This time it was different. They followed the instructions laid down in the Bible to the letter. It was a time of great blessing and rejoicing. The king even humbled himself, instead of wearing the royal robes, he wore simple linen garments. All Israel rejoiced, then came Amalek. Listen:

"Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel today, who uncovered himself today in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself!" (II Samuel 6:20). He came home full of joy and full of the thoughts of God. She jumped all over him. She could not have had more of an effect if she had thrown a bucket of cold water on him. I know that I have some of you by the hand now. You know just what I am talking about. Do you not see just how Biblical your own experience is? Do not let Satan tell you that your situation is different than those of other Christians. Have you noticed how that others come against you at work on Monday after you have been blessed during the Sunday services? While in the South, I became friends with a man that was a member of another Baptist Church. He told me that he had been teaching a Sunday school class and the Lord had blessed the class. He said he finally gave up the class because

(Continued on Page 4 Column 4)

The Baptist Examiner Forum

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

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

What position should the pastor's wife occupy in a church? How should the church and its members treat the pastor's wife? Is this important?

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In one sense of the word, all members including the pastor are equal. No member occupies a higher place than any other in respect to position in God's sight.

We must remember, however, that God's servants must have a certain amount of respect. A pastor holds a special place in the church as the undershepherd of the flock. He is the spiritual leader of the church and as such should be held in esteem by the members. "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine" (I Tim. 5:17).

You may be wondering why I spent a paragraph about the pastor. First, let me remind you that when a man and woman become married, they become one. His concerns are hers, his burdens are hers, his joys are hers. His wife should be respected as one who helps the pastor, who feeds him, and comforts him when he is depressed. The women of the church should look to her for guidance and respect her advice.

The church should remember also that since the pastor must spend most of his days praying, studying, and visiting others, he does not have the leisure time that everybody else has to do little things for his wife and family that he would like to do. He can't always provide the little extras for them nor, in many cases, even the garden items that others provide. Anything that the members can do for her to make things easier for her should be done.

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The pastor's wife can be a great help to her husband in his work for the Lord. She can also be a great hindrance. I feel that there are times when too much emphasis is put on the pastor's wife. People worry more about what she is doing than about what they are doing. Let us answer these questions one at a time.

First, what position should the pastor's wife occupy in the church? She should occupy the same place as any other member of the church. Much of her position will depend on her personality. I do not feel that a

woman should change her personality because she is the pastor's wife. If it is becoming and she so desires, she should take the lead in church matters where the women are concerned. I give the example of Bible Conferences. I feel the pastor's wife should take the lead in the meals, etc. I say this because of her position with the pastor. She knows more about what he desires. This would also be true in the realm of visitation. I do not believe every pastor's wife can be a leader.

Secondly, how should the church members treat her? The pastor's wife should be treated with the same love and understanding that all other members are treated with. Perhaps she should have even more understanding for having to live with us pastors. Any time there is something wrong in the church she has to put up with her husband's worries. She should be treated with the same respect as Nancy Reagan for her office as the first lady. The pastor's wife is not to be used as a sounding board for complaints by other members. She is not to be blamed for the failures of her husband. She is not to be treated as an unpaid employee. The pastor is the employee of the church, not the pastor's wife. The pastor's wife is to be treated with the same love and honor that the pastor is treated with.

Lastly, this is important. Yes, it is very important. Much of the happiness and success of a pastor will depend on the happiness of his wife. This is true in all other fields, and it is also true in pastoral work. Few men will be happy at a church if his wife is miserable. The church will function much smoother if the pastor and his wife are treated properly, as well as all members.

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I do not know of any Scripture which applies in a peculiar sense to pastors' wives, and not to the other women of the church. Paul says of the wives of deacons: "Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things" (I Tim. 3:11). This duty belongs to all the women of the church, but like the brethren, many of the sisters of the church come short of this criteria, and thereby disqualify their husbands for the deaconship or pastoral office.

The Lord does in a particular sense hold the pastor responsible for the church (Heb. 13:17), and the duties of his office oftentimes makes demands on him whereby his wife and family are deprived of his needed counsel and time. In such instances it would be a show of wisdom on the part of the

church if they manifested special concern for the pastor's wife, to compensate for any additional hardship she may be suffering at the time. This is important.

As a rule Baptist wives care little to nothing for publicity's limelight, but it certainly would not hurt for the church to let her know it is appreciative of the sacrifices she makes so that her pastor-husband may have the time to care for his flock as he should.

One of the greatest earthly blessings a pastor can have is a godly wife, for above all others he needs her spiritual support, and without the support of his wife his ministry will be deficient in many areas. The pastor who has the proper support of his wife, he and the church which he pastors has found a woman whose price "Is far above rubies."

As to the behaviour of the pastor's wife in the official worship service, no more is required of her than any of the other female members. She is not by virtue of her marriage to the pastor above any of the other women in the church. Conversely, she is never to be taken for granted, nor depreciated because of her marriage to the pastor.

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Although the Bible does not say anything about the position of a pastor's wife, the passages of Scripture concerning women would certainly include the pastor's wife. The restrictions given women forbidding them to speak in church, to teach or usurp authority over men would certainly apply to the wife of a pastor as well as the other women of the church.

In I Timothy 3:11 we are told that the deacons' wives are to, "...be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things." Should not the pastor's wife be the same?

The pastor's wife should set an example for the other ladies of the church. She should be discreet in what she says and does. She should be modest and reserved, yet friendly to all.

The church should treat her with all the respect which is due her as the wife of the pastor. As the wife of the president of the United States is referred to as the first lady of the land, the wife of the pastor should be the first lady of the church.

In I Timothy 5:17 we are told, "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine". The pastor's wife who stands by her husband and looks after his welfare in all things should share equally in this double honor, "...for her

price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil" (Proverbs 31:10, 11).

AMALEK

(Continued from Page 3)

his wife had objected so much. He said he had never expected so much opposition. While he related his story to me, I could not help but think of Amalek coming right after the blessing.

A well-known evangelist was married to a very jealous woman. She would go to the meetings just to keep an eye on the other women. After they would come home, she would spend hours falsely accusing him of flirting with the ladies that had been at the meeting. He knew that after preaching and the spiritual experience of the meeting, he would have to face Amalek. Amalek has many weapons. The prince of darkness ensures that his servants are well armed with the cruel weapons of the world. We are not as skilled in the use of carnal weapons and should not use them. Our weapons are spiritual, bringing us to our next point.

IV. WE HAVE WEAPONS TO USE AGAINST AMALEK.

Our weapons are not like those of the world. We are to overcome evil with good. We are to use kindness instead of vengeance. We are not to get even but rather leave it in God's hands. We have three weapons that insure victory over Amalek. They are prayer, faith and praise. A good example of this is found in II Chronicles chapter 20.

King Jehoshaphat was told that a great multitude had come against him and was camped at Engedi. Judah was but a small nation. There seemed no human way out. According to human reasoning, all would be lost. Jehoshaphat naturally feared. The first thing the king did was to pray and proclaim a prayer meeting throughout Judah. Surely this is the first thing you and I should do when confronted with Amalek. God answered their prayers and reminded them that they were not in this battle alone. That, in fact, the battle was really God's.

Listen: "...Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's" (II Chronicles 20:15). How we need to be reminded that the battle is not ours, but God's. The second thing Jehoshaphat did was instruct the people to go to battle in faith. Listen: "...Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper" (II Chronicles 20:20).

You and I need to go about the Lord's work in faith. Regardless of our enemies we must trust the Lord and go on. Many are stopped by opposition but faith would always say go ahead. It does not matter what someone might say about you, it does not matter what someone might think of you. Amalek cannot ultimately win, the Word of God is against him. God has given a promise which your faith can claim. Listen: "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord" (Isaiah 54:17).

Amalek may rave and rant

but this Scripture will stand forever. The words in this verse will never be changed. Are you slandered and thought evil of? Consider the words of this promise. Tongues may rise against you but all to no avail. The third step that King Jehoshaphat took was to ensure that the Lord was praised. In the face of sure defeat, humanly speaking, they praised their God. Listen: "And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the Lord, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the Lord; for his mercy endureth for ever" (II Chronicles 20:21). It is not easy, but you and I should praise the Lord even in the midst of our trials. Temporarily, Amalek may strike fear in the heart of a child of God, but eventually Divine Grace will cause it to give way to praise for God. God gave the enemies into Jehoshaphat's hand. It seemed bad at first, but God wrought a great blessing out of it all. What seemed to be for their undoing, proved to benefit them. They were greatly enriched as a result. Listen: "...they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much" (II Chronicles 20:25). Our Amaleks are the same to us as Jehoshaphat's enemies were to him. Eventually all the battles and enemies will only serve to enrich us in some way.

John Bunyan, the Baptist preacher, was put in prison for 13 years by his enemies. While there, he produced his greatest literary works, writings which have proved a valuable blessing to God's people down through the years. His enemies only served to enrich him spiritually. His name was honored through the work of his enemies. We read in the Bible of Joseph being hated by his brethren. Though they would have killed him, they settled for selling him as a slave. Then we read of Potiphar's wife slandering him. Though these enemies meant him evil, they only paved the way for him to take the throne in Egypt. They, in fact, served to enrich him.

Even Amalek must submit to the promise in Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God..." Our Amaleks are part of the "all things." Our enemies are made to benefit us by the Sovereignty of God. No, Amalek can not ultimately hurt a child of God, though we could lose a few battles, the end is already decided. Nevertheless, do not be taken by surprise. Beware of Amalek. A great man once said, "To be forewarned is to be forearmed."

V. TO THE LOST. Maybe you have played the part of Amalek--you have been an enemy to the followers of Jesus.

In the New Testament, we read of a young man that was a terrible foe to the children of God. His name was Saul. He hated the children of God. While he was on a mission to destroy Christians, God intervened and saved him. He was not seeking Jesus, but God sought him. Divine Grace changed this man into the Apostle Paul. He would spend the rest of his life enduring all kinds of hardship and persecution for the benefit of God's people. He would be used of God to write most of the New Testament and be the greatest missionary the world has ever seen.

God still saves men and women by His transforming Grace. In fact, that is the only

(Continued on Page 5 Column 1)

AMALEK

(Continued from Page 4)

way He saves anyone. It is true you are an enemy of God, so once were we, but God has reconciled us to Himself and given us a ministry of reconciliation. Listen: "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation" (II Corinthians 5:18). Reconciliation is by the finished work of the Saviour. Christ by His atoning death on the cross and resurrection from the dead has made peace with God. Trust Him today as your only hope because we read, "For he is our peace..." (Ephesians 2:14). In the words of the Apostle Paul: "...we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God" (II Corinthians 5:20).

May God bless you all!

REVIVAL

(Continued from Page 1)

getting our act together and cleaning up our act, well, let me tell you we need to put it into practice and do what we say, we need to get right with God Almighty.

Revival is a time of realization of one's condition. To become aware of the presence of the Lord. When we talk about being refreshed, like when on a hot dusty summer day you've been working all day without a drop to drink. Your tongue feels like a 2x4 and your throat feels like its about to swell together. Someone hands you a tall glass of ice-water. That is a time of refreshing. That is a time of satisfying. That is a time when the body has been revived back to life, we might say. Even so, when we meet with the Lord in His house on His day with His Word, we feed upon it to revive our souls, to be refreshed, to be strengthened, lifted up. It's not our day to do what we want. It's the only day we don't have. If are not revived, then there is something wrong in our Christian lives.

Someone once said to me that you do not have to go to church to worship the Lord. In the first place, it is your responsibility to be in church if you are a child of God. Secondly, everytime you are absent from services you are saying by your actions that you don't care if you have a church to go to or not. Thirdly, it's an excuse you give to stay out of church on the Lord's day to do what you want to do. Fourthly, it's just carelessness, laziness, and sinfulness. You may do it for awhile, but the Lord will stop you before it's over. A child of God ought to count it a great privilege to go to church. It's not something you have done for yourself, but it's a God-given right to go to church.

We shouldn't have to have a special week's meeting to get us revived, but we often do. Then sometimes there are those that go every night, sit there and walk away at the end of the week looking just like they did when they walked in. They look as though they have never been in the presence of God. They act as though they have not been revived with the Word. Each time we go to the services we ought to walk away feeling like we have benefited from hearing the Word of God. Too many times we act like programed robots. A coach once told me, that each time I went out to practice on the track, everytime I ran the mile, and if I did not run it any faster than I did the day before, even if only by a se-

cond, that I had not accomplished anything. I was going backwards instead of progressing. Well, that's the way it is with us. Each time we go to church we ought to move forward, progress, gain, learn, grow, be strengthened, be refreshed, and revived with God's Word.

We need to check our hearts, and to give serious thought as to whether or not we are children of God, and if so, then we need to look at how we are living. Are we living a life that is pleasing to God, that gives honor and glory to Christ. One that we are not ashamed to be telling others about. One that we would not be ashamed of if the Lord were to return. How about it?

We say we are Christians and we are baptized and join the church, but in our daily, practical lives we say it differently. How many times we come to the services, listen to the sermon and just can't wait to get home to turn on the TV because some favorite movie is about to come on. You get home faster than you got to church, and by the time you get home you have all but forgotten the message you just heard. It went in one ear and out the other. Do you think that God is pleased with this kind of attitude?

How many times do we go away from church arguing with each other, fussing, fighting, carrying on, showing little evidence of having met with God in His house? What good did it do to go to church if you are not going to put the message into practice? Oh how God's people need to be revived. Let us compare the time we spend on our entertainment with the time we spend for our Lord. Count it up and you will find it falls way short. If I were to give you one million dollars you would feel like you just couldn't do enough for me, and every day you would probably be trying to do something for me. But yet our Lord has given us eternal life, that which cannot be taken away, and what do we do? We sit home, gripe about going to church, complain about the obligations we have as a Christian, turn our back on God and live in sin. Oh! how we need to pray for a revival — one like we have never had before. One that will set us on fire. How we need to pray that God will have mercy on us and not show His wrath.

Revival is that time when the children of God are made to see their condition as was in the past, is in the present, and how it should be in the future. There has never been a time in the history of God's people when they have not had a heart cry for revival. David in his condition cried out in remorse, "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee." The thought brought out here in the Hebrew is that, David in his backslidden condition was bound by his sins and had no liberty and no joy. Paul brings this out more clearly in instructing the Corinthian church regarding the ministry being spiritual and not legal when he said, "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." (II Cor. 3:17). In spiritual declension our cry ought to be, "Oh that thou wouldest rend the heavens, that thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence, as when the melting

fire burneth, the fire causeth the waters to boil, to make thy name known to thine adversaries that the nations may tremble at thy presence. When thou didst terrible things which we looked not for, thou camest down, the mountains flowed down at thy presence." (Isa. 64:1-3). As we think about the present time in which we live, there seems little hope outside that of the coming of the Lord. Generally speaking, the lives of Christians do not differ, to any great extent, from the lives of the folk around them. They share the same fears, express the same doubts, feel the same uncertainty, and show the same unconcern. The peace of God and the joy of Christ are little in evidence. If there is to be a revival of spiritual life and power it must originate with God and in the individual believer.

Beloved, there is a great need of personal searching of heart and exercise of soul in this matter. The sin which is spoiling the life of the Christian must be judged, and put away. Must be confessed before God to be forgiven. The selfishness, which is robbing Christ of the love and devotion which are His due, must be confessed and removed. The ambitions and desires, which are hindering the work of God, must be uprooted, torn away and thrown in the refuse heap. A renewal of blessing is dependent upon the restoration of communion and the reconsecration of heart and life. In other words, the only way you will be revived and receive a blessing is to confess those sins you are living in, get right with God, restore that fellowship and communion that you once had. Our main problem today is that we sit and listen week after week to the preaching, we go to conferences and come away without any real evidence of having met with God. Oh! That God would teach us that it is as important to be spiritual as to be sound in our approach to the Bible. Just as important to be obedient as to be orthodox. Too many folk have set double standards for their lives today. May the Lord bless each and every one!

FISHING

(Continued from Page 1)

without it being extended to them. Peter and Andrew heard that call because it was spoken directly to them. The reason so many are pretending to be preachers and fishers for men is that many of them are fishing without a license. It is illegal and it is done in defiance of our Lord Himself, because they have no authority, therefore no license.

Christ gave Peter and Andrew after His call to service, granted the authority, because He (Christ) was that authority and is that authority. We read in Matthew 28:18 "...all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." All authority, and He had the authority to license these men to be fishers of men. No where else could they get it.

Now, upon the Saviour commissioning His churches, they became the licensed authority, He (Christ) was that authority and is that authority because we read in Matthew 28:18 "...all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." All authority, and He had the authority to license these men to be fishers of men. No where else could they get it.

Now, upon the Savior commissioning His churches, they became the licensing authority

as is pointed out in Matthew 16:18-19, "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. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." The Lord calls His people into service (preachers), but it is under the authority of His churches as laid down in the great commission. The churches of His do not make or legislate the laws, but they carry out the commission that He has already given. It is not Scriptural for a church to act according to their own rules and regulations. If they do so, they are fishing without a license or authority from Christ. I realize that Jesus has never authorized any individual, apart from one of His churches, to act in His behalf.

Those who follow such practice are following the commandments of men instead of fishing with a valid, God-authorized license. It is plainly fishing without a license.

Pastors of the Lord's true churches do not have the licensing authority over God's heritage. Many are going along in practice with much that is not included in God's Word to His churches. True pastors are to be under-shepherd, nor is the church to make laws to govern the flock, but to feed His church and stick to the menu that God has already provided. For it to be any other way is fishing without a license. To be fishers of men, the hook must be baited only with the bait which one is not to be ashamed of. Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Then if a church is one of the Lord's churches,

she is a church that has authority to use her legal bait and to cast her net out into the deep for the purpose of fishing men.

The business of fishing for men calls for much renunciation. I say that because there is something to be given up as well as responsibilities to be taken on. It is well to look at what Abraham gave up. We read from Isaiah 51:2: "Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him." God called Abraham and not his family. Genesis 12:1: "Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of the country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee." In fishing according to God's rules we, like Abraham, may be called upon to give up much. We need also to realize what Peter, Andrew, James and John had to give up. They gave up their nets. They gave up their fishing business, they gave up their ship and they gave up their father. Matthew 4:22, "And they immediately left the ship their father, and followed Him." Why? Because they were to become fishers of men and went, according to authority, to fish for men. They were called personally and they heeded that call. They were not called unto salvation because they were already saved. They were called to service. A preacher of our Lord is not called to save souls. God does that. Neither to make other fishers of men. God does that. Not to make successful workers. God gives success to His churches. However, we can be faithful by the help of Christ and fish with a valid license instead of fishing without a license or one that is issued without authority of the Sovereign Head of His Church. May I ask a question in closing, "Are you fishing without a license?"



OUR KIND OF CHURCH

The Northland Missionary Baptist Church meets at 2720 Abington Road, Columbus, Ohio. The church is pastored by Willard Willis. Brother Willis is a valued and regular writer in the pages of The Baptist Examiner. He is a very fine, sound, and able preacher of God's

Word. This editor urges those in the Columbus, Ohio area to visit this church. Brother Willis writes:

The church in Columbus was organized by the Arabia Missionary Baptist Church. The church at Arabia was organized by the First Baptist Church of Coal Grove, Ohio. The Coal Grove church was organized by the First Baptist Church of Russell, Ky. of which Brother John R. Gilpin, Sr. was then pastor.

The following are some of the doctrines which we teach: Election, Predestination, Limited Atonement, Total Depravity, Irresistible Grace, Eternal Security, Closed Communion, Wine and Unleavened Bread for the Lord's Supper, The Premillennial Coming of Christ, etc.

This church has services at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday evening.

APPRECIATED LETTERS

Dear Brethren,

I have been a subscriber to The Baptist Examiner for several years now. This is the first time I have written you. I am enclosing a check for the work in New Guinea.--J. I. Patton, Hazel, KY.

Dear Baptist Examiner,

Please renew my subscription for another year. I thoroughly enjoy, and receive a blessing when I read your paper. Enclosed is a check to cover the subscription...Please pray for us as we try to serve the Lord.--Your fellow servant, Elder Joel Cox, KY.

It is chiefly through books that we enjoy intercourse with superior minds.

A BLESSED WEEK-END IN MAINE

I had never been to Maine before. I was looking forward to this trip. Brother Frank, Sister Vera Farren, and Sister Clover Meserve had been in contact with me for some time. They had been reading The Baptist Examiner for a good while. They had come to believe the truths that we stand for here. There is no church, so far as we know, in this part of the world that preaches the truths that we believe. These three dear saints had been supporting our work here for some time. They could not be satisfied to be a member of a church and supportive thereof that preached against the truths of God's Word. They wrote me of their situation. As the result of our correspondence, these three applied for membership in Calvary Baptist Church. Our church received them as candidates for Baptism, leaving it up to the pastor to make proper arrangements for this.

I hardly knew how to go about this. I thought of sending someone to Maine to take care of this. The more I pondered and prayed about the matter, the

more I felt that I should take care of this myself. Gradually things fell in place, and plans were made for me to go to Maine to baptize these three into our church. I dreaded the thought of baptizing in open water in Maine in October, but I just could not make these dear, enthusiastic people wait til next Spring to become members of our church.

I left Huntington on October 12th not knowing what a blessed experience awaited me. I arrived in Bangor, Maine about 6:30 p.m., and was met at the airport by the Farrens and the Meserves. It was a great blessing to me to meet these with whom I had come to have a spirit of fellowship through out correspondence by mail. I could hardly believe the weather. It was 70 there in the afternoon, and the men who met me were in shirt sleeves.

We stopped on the way to Cherryfield and had a delicious supper. Then, on to Cherryfield, Maine; the Blueberry capital of the world. The Farrens live in Cherryfield. The Meserves live in Portland,

Maine. Mrs. Meserve is sister to Mrs. Farren. We sort of got acquainted on Friday night and discussed plans for the Baptismal service.

Saturday was a beautiful day. We had decided to have the Baptism at about 10:00 a.m. in a nearby lake. I talked with the three candidates as to salvation, and their desire for Baptism and to live for the Lord as faithful members of a true church. We read Scripture and had prayer at the home. Mr. Meserve picked up a friend of the family and we six arrived at the place for the baptism.

What a beautiful lake. See pictures. The water was crystal clear. We stood on the lake shore and discussed how we would conduct the service. Then, we all four walked out into the beautiful lake until we reached a sufficient depth of water for the Baptizing. Yes, the water was cold. Yes, we felt the cold. But I was so ashamed of my weeks of dread, for it was not nearly as bad as I had feared. In fact, God gave a season of unusually warm weather at this time.

I baptized sister Farren, then sister Meserve. Then, just before baptizing brother Farren, I remarked to him that it just was not nearly as bad as we had feared it would be.

How can I describe the blessings of this service? The three new members of Calvary Baptist Church were bubbling over with the joy of the Lord. I do not know how many times they told me of their great joy at finally being members of a true church. For myself, I have always experienced that a Baptismal service is a very blessed point in a preacher's ministry. I will say that I have never participated in a baptismal service that was more of a blessing to me than this one.

We returned home to change our wet clothes. We all remarked as to how the water was not nearly as cold as we had feared, and as to how wonderful the service was. We had blessed fellowship at the Farren's home the rest of the day. At the noon meal, the editor had his first lobster meal. It was truly delicious. On Saturday night I was taken out for supper, and it was one of the finest meals I have ever had.

On Sunday we had a service in the home of the Farrens. It was a blessed time. I enjoyed it so very much, and the others seemed to be almost in third heaven. Most of the time these three have their Bible, The Baptist Examiner, and my tapes. This is all the religious service and teaching they have. Conse-



Question - What prophet married a prostitute at the command of the Lord?

Answer - Hosea, to illustrate a sermon, Hosea 1:2-3, "...And the Lord said unto Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the Lord. So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim; which conceived, and bore him a son."

SOME NEEDS OF BROTHER HALLIMAN

Below are listed some of the things that Brother Peter Halliman will need on the mission field. He hopes to have much of this material shipped before he leaves here for New Guinea, thus saving the extra expense of air-mailing them. They need to be on the way as soon as possible. If any individuals or churches would like to have a part in any of these, let us know. It will be appreciated. As to personal clothing, it would be far better to send the money and let Peter purchase such. As to other items, you could send the money, or donate the items. It would also greatly help if you would desire to pay the shipping costs of these items. Peter did not list it, but I happen to know that he would like to have a movie camera and whatever would be needed with it. He mentioned to me that he felt movies of the work over there would be a blessing to folk here. Now the list.

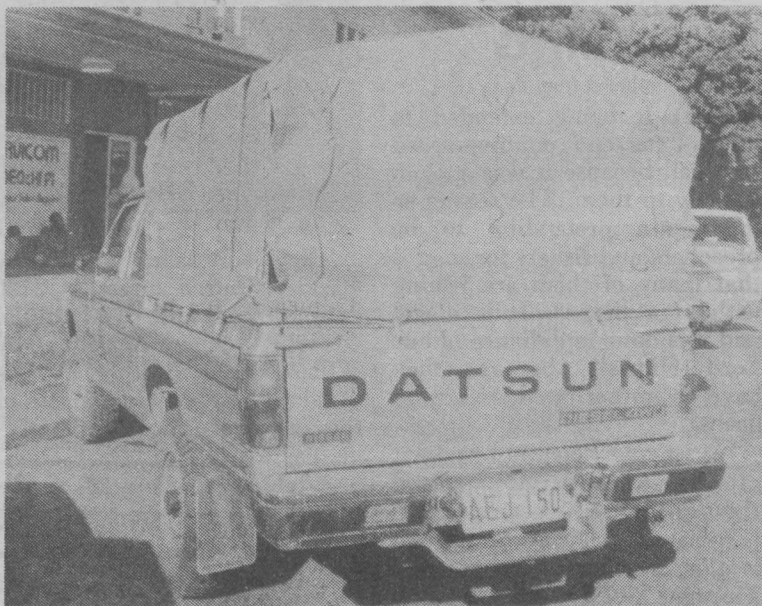
Two good pairs of walking boots. Two good sleeping bags - waterproofed if possible. Two aluminum water canteens. Twelve pair of loose cut Levis. Twelve pair of Army pants. Twelve pair of Army shirts. Twelve pair of blue jean shirts. One Army jacket. Two blue jean jackets. Twenty-four pair of cotton boot socks. Twenty-four pair of under pants. Twenty-four pair of under shirts. Twenty-four sport shirts. Twenty four handkerchiefs.

Household supplies. Bed sheets, Pillow cases. Dishes, pots, pans, and silverware. Cookware for patrols. Aluminum coffee pot. Bowie knife. One good tent. Two good Coleman lanterns. Two good compasses. A set of lightweight, inexpensive luggage.

Brother Fred Halliman has written to Peter advising these things, and advising shipping them over as far ahead of Peter's leaving here as possible. If you would like to help in any way, please let us know. It will be greatly appreciated. Brother Fred believes these things can be purchased here and shipped over more cheaply than purchasing them there.

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
DEC. 1, 1984
PAGE SIX

VEHICLE YOU PURCHASED



Note: Dear friends,

It has always been my policy when something special was purchased for the mission work to take pictures of whatever it may have been and send to be published in THE BAPTIST EXAMINER. At the time my house burned last October my camera burned with it and I have not had a camera to take picture with until recently. While I have been using the vehicle that you folks back there bought for the mission work for almost a year it is only now that I have been able to send you some pictures of the vehicle.

1 & 2. The two pictures in this issue of TBE show you the vehicle that was bought with the money you sent. As will be

noted and previously mentioned the vehicle is a double cab Datsun Pickup. The vehicle serves me well and is cheaper to operate insofar as fuel is concerned than the last vehicle. When it comes to buying parts I find no difference. For instance just last week I had to have the brakes worked on. The front brakes have metal brake pads which cost \$100. per set. The back brakes have ordinary brake linings. To replace the brakes on the four wheels it cost \$250.

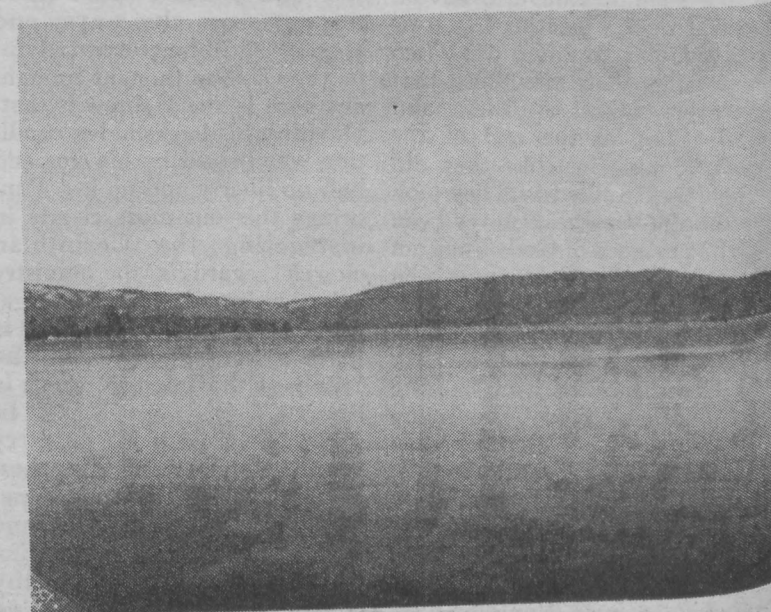
A good vehicle is essential in the work here now and once against I thank the Lord that He impressed His people to provide such a vehicle for this work.



From left to right. Frank & Vera Farren, the editor, Dick & Clover Meserve.



The editor's first lobster. It was delicious.



The beautiful lake in Maine where the baptism took place.

(Continued on Page 8 Column 3)

STUDIES IN EZEKIEL

Willard Willis, Monroe, Ohio

Chapter 15

"And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of Man, what is the vine tree more than any tree, or than a branch which is among the trees of the forest? Shall wood be taken thereof to do any work? Or will men take a pin of it to hang any vessel thereon? Behold, it is cast into the fire for fuel; the fire devoureth both the ends of it, and the midst of it is burned.



Willard Willis

Is it meet for any work? Behold, when it was whole, it was meet for no work: how much less shall it be meet yet for any work, when the fire hath devoured it, and it is burned?" (Ezek. 15:1-5).

That which is before us is the story of a burning vine—a vine that was worthless. It was worthless because it produced nothing. It was no use to any one because there was no fruit on it and because it was unsuitable for building material. It was not even suitable to be used as a pin on which to place a vessel. The vine before us, of course, is the house of Israel. The following passages will inform us of the height from which they had fallen.

"Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt: Thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it. Thou prearest room before it, and didst cause it to take deep root, and it filled the land. The hills were covered with the shadow of it, and the boughs thereof were like the goodly cedars. She sent out her boughs unto the sea, and her branches unto the river. Why hast thou then broken down her hedges, so that all they which pass by the way do pluck her?" (Ps. 80:8-12).

It is obvious that the reference in the above passages is to Israel. God, in fact, brought them out of Egypt and planted them in Palestine. He proceeded to cast out the heathen from the land—the seven nations of Canaan. These nations were the Hittites, Girgasites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizites, Hivites and the Jebusites. The vine, which was Israel, proceeded to spread over the land where the seven nations once had their roots. The kingdom of Israel, in fact, during the days of David and Solomon, was a mighty kingdom which was known throughout the world.

We have a further description of Israel as a vine in the following passages: "Now will I sing to my well beloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My well-beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: and he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild

grapes. And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done to it? Wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: and I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briars and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it" (Isaiah 5:1-5). It is very obvious that the above passages have reference to the house of Israel. God, in fact, planted Israel in a very fruitful hill, or what we know as Palestine. The stones which He took out of His vineyard have reference to the heathen nations. God proceeded to build a tower in His vineyard. The tower being the government which was headed by David. The winepress therein refers to the religion which resulted in joy to the nation so long as they heard and heeded its precepts. The problem was that wild grapes grew on the vines—the wild grapes being that which we are now studying in the book of Ezekiel, that is, the sins of Israel.

We have a further reference to that which took place relative to Israel in the following passage:

"Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me" (Jer. 2:21).

The following passage provides us with an excellent explanation for Israel's condition.

"Israel is an empty vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself: according to the multitude of his fruit he hath increased the altars; according to the goodness of his land they have made goodly images" (Hosea 10:1).

Israel, then, according to the Word of God, had become an empty vine which brought forth only that fruit which pleased themselves.

A vine is an excellent example of Israel's condition, since a vine which does not bear fruit is worthless. There, in fact, according to the chapter before us, is value in every tree except a worthless vine. A worthless vine is so worthless that it won't even provide a pin to hang a vessel on (14:3). The bark of some trees is used for dye in the tanning process,

(Continued on Page 8 Column 1)

MISSION REPORT

by Fred Halliman

Dear Friends,

Greetings to each of you in the precious name of Jesus. Once again I ask you to excuse me for being absent for so long from The Baptist Examiner.

I trust this finds each of you in good health and enjoying the blessings of God. As for myself I am well most of the time. I have my bouts with malaria which varies from mild to fairly serious. In this area malaria is endemic and one just has to learn to live with it. There are

medicines that are supposed to suppress or even prevent one from getting malaria. I have taken those antimalaria tablets for 24 years but still get it so now I do not take them any more except when I get an attack.

In spite of frequent attacks of malaria I have so much to be thankful for, and while I am sure I fail in being thankful enough, I try to take time out each day to thank the Lord for His blessings. Time would run into eternity before I would be able to thank the Lord enough for allowing me to preach the gospel to the folk here in Papua, New Guinea. There have been many hardships and heartaches to be sure, but God has given me a glorious ministry here; one that I believe will have lasting effects throughout all eternity. Then I have so much to be thankful for in that God has given me such a great host of friends and people back there that have prayed for me, given of their means to support the work, and many have encouraged me with letters over the years. Beloved, it may appear at times that I do not appreciate what you have done to make this ministry the success that it is, but I assure you that I am deeply grateful. Then I am thankful for the privilege of being a member of such a great church as Calvary Baptist Church. I know that I am not worthy of such a great honor, but God has overruled in all my dishonors and has allowed it to be so. There are so many things that I could, and maybe should mention, but allow me to mention just one more thing. I am so thankful to have Brother Joe Wilson as my pastor. God has given Brother Wilson an understanding heart and a love for this work. We have been very close over the years but have grown even closer as we work together in this and other church work. The work continues to grow and is being blessed of the Lord. There have been some saved and baptized here in the Huli area as well as over in the Duna area. I'll have more on the Duna area further on. There are not large numbers that attend the services here in the Huli area, but in many ways the work here is making great strides. We are especially happy about the former Catholic man that has been saved and baptized. He preaches two or three times every week now. I heard him bring a powerful message today on "The Word" from Heb. 4:12-13. In some areas of the work there are lean seasons, but over all it continues to make good progress.

Occasionally we have sorrow mingled with joy in the work. We experienced such a case not too long ago. One of our elderly preachers from the Duna area attended our last Bible Conference here in the Huli area and left the Conference rejoicing that God had allowed him such a great time in the Lord. Soon after he got home he got malaria (had contacted that here) and never recovered. He died about three weeks after he left here. He was a man that loved the Lord and was happiest when he was preaching. He had long served the Lord; first as a missionary, then as a pastor; and was serving as missionary again when he died. It saddened our hearts to see him go but it was such a joy to know that he had served his Lord well and is now resting in His presence.

Good News From The Duna Work

I think it is fairly well understood by all that I do not

spend much time now over in the Duna area. I do go occasionally, but most of my time is now spent among the Huli People. However, this does not mean that the Duna work is suffering. They have had lots of growing pains. There have been some three or four preachers that have rebelled at the thought of having to carry the work on without a white missionary, but all these things have worked together to help them find their place in life and especially in God's work. A couple have not settled down as yet and are still floundering like a sick fish in an ocean storm, but God will either help them recover and cause them to take up where they left off, or else He will wash them ashore.

The one man that has definitely proved himself to be a leader among the Duna Christians and who is carrying the load now is Elder Ekere Ibago, our Bible teacher. Brother Ibago has mixed emotions just now about his work and perhaps his calling in the ministry. He is a great preacher and the best Bible teacher of all the preachers we have here. He also is a fine literacy teacher. In the past few months he has had a burning desire to get out on patrol work in the bush, visiting churches and doing evangelistic work. He closed the Bible school down for a three-month vacation and started visiting churches. He had seven men with him on this patrol and they worked as a team in preaching and singing. They visited every church in the outback and were out on patrol for seven weeks. Brother Ibago reported 110 professions of faith during that time. There were plans started for several literacy schools to open, and one or two Bible schools. One of the blessings that came out of this report concerns a young man that attended our first Bible School at Tanggi. This young man left and went back to his home in the bush. I had not heard from him in a couple of years and assumed that he had gone to some coastal town and obtained work. Brother Ibago reported finding him preaching, and that he had gotten a group together which will eventually be formed into a church. This is over in the heavily populated Lutheran area about a half-mile from where the Lutheran Bishop almost killed one of our pastors with a stone. Almost all of that area has now become Baptist. I have an illustration that I sometimes use with the New Guinea people to teach them a simple truth. It goes something like this: If you want cabbage, beans and sweet potatoes to grow fast, you put some fertilizer in the hills, rows, etc. Even so when Baptists are persecuted it's like putting fertilizer under them. Persecution has the same effect on Baptists that fertilizer does on vegetables.

Brother Ibago's Patrol Extends Into The Huli Area

While Brother Ibago had not finished his patrol work over in the Duna area; after seven weeks he decided to take a break and finish visiting all the churches. Inasmuch as we are having our second Bible Conference in the Huli area, this week Elder Ibago thought it good that he attend this Conference with his co-workers and then take up the patrol from here and work back to the Duna area. Today was our first day of the conference. It was well attended and we had some great preaching today. The group that sings with Brother Ibago is outstanding,

Missionary To New Guinea

Eld. Fred T. Halliman



FRED T. HALLIMAN

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

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

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

and we had lots of special singing today. Although I was unable to attend tonight's session for various reasons, the conference is in progress as I am writing this. I am looking forward to the conference tomorrow. I preach just before the noon break. Lord willing, I plan to preach on the subject: "The Kind of Church Members That Baptists Should Be".
The New House At Nogoli nearing Completion

Ever since I have been living in this area (most of the time for over 5 years) I have lived in a bush house. The house that burned almost a year ago was a bush house; but it was a good bush house, well-designed and fixed up pretty good. The one we have been living in for almost a year now is extremely primitive, and has reached the stage now that it is almost unlivable. However, I have refused to do any more repairs on it, and try to stick it out until I can move into my new house. Within a month from the time I am writing this I should be moved in. I will soon have some pictures in T.B.E. of the new house and other scenes around the Mission Station. This is the main reason that I have been so long in having a mission report for T.B.E. I have been working every day and many times until 7 and 8 at night, and by the time I would get my meal ready and eat I do not feel like writing to anyone.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many folk who have written me in the past three months. Most of you have not received a personal answer. I have enjoyed reading your letters, and will try in due time to get an answer back to you. I deeply appreciate all my friends and pray for you all as well as my enemies. I trust that you will continue to pray for me and support the work as the Lord leads you. May our Triune God supply your every need.

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
DEC. 1, 1984
PAGE SEVEN

What a sense of security in an old book which Time has criticised for us.

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)

while other trees are used for building and for the making of furniture, etc. The sap of some trees is even valuable. We may go a step further and observe that even the roots of some trees are valuable for medicine. The vine, on the other hand, if it bears no fruit, is worthless. It even wastes the space in which it grows.

You and I as individual believers can learn a very solemn lesson from the fruitless vine. The lesson being that a person, in spiritual things, is useless if fruitless. There in fact, will be no rewards for a fruitless believer. The believer should experience the following fruits of the spirit in order to be a fruitful vine.

"But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Gal. 5:22, 23).

The following passage teaches us the same thing as does the fruitless vine:

"If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned" (John 15:6).

"Ye are the salt of the earth; but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men" (Mt. 5:13).

The Lord's churches are the salt of the earth today. False churches, on the other hand, have no saltiness and as a result are good for nothing. Unsavory salt causes nothing but barrenness and so do false churches. Unfruitful vines, or false churches, are "good for nothing" as far as bringing honor to God is concerned. Some may question this statement, but Matthew 15:9 confirms that such is true.

"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Mt. 15:9).

God, in Ezekiel 15:6, declared that He would burn the inhabitants of Jerusalem even as a vine is put into the fire for fuel. It is very significant to observe from other Scriptures that God literally fulfilled this prophecy.

"And he (Nebuchadnezzar) burnt the house of the Lord, and the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every great man's house burnt he with fire" (II Kings 25:9).

It was after Palestine had become subservient to Babylon that Nebuchadnezzar set up young Zedekiah as the puppet king over Palestine. Zedekiah, however, rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar and the result was that Zedekiah's sons were slain in his presence by the order of Nebuchadnezzar. Nebuchadnezzar then ordered that Zedekiah's eyes be bored out. Later on, Nebuchadnezzar had King Zedekiah's house burned plus all the houses of the great men of the city. He proceeded to burn the city until it was completely destroyed.

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
DEC. 1, 1984
PAGE EIGHT

"And I will set my face against them: they shall go out from one fire, and another fire shall devour them; and ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I set my face against them" (Ezek. 15:7).

God, in setting His face against them, would thwart all their counsels even as they set their face against Him and tried to contradict His Word and defeat His purpose.

Those who escaped the fire (God's judgment) would only find another fire awaiting them. Hitler's Germany was certainly one of the fires which awaited the Jews. Let each of us learn that it doesn't pay to set our face against God. He will always be the winner and we the loser. God will always do all His pleasure and we will only try to perform that which pleases us. We, in fact, can do nothing if He steps in our way.

"And I will make the land desolate, because they have committed a trespass, saith the Lord God" (Ezek. 15:8).

The word "make" is the key word in this passage. We are to learn that desolate land and fruitful land have both been made by the Almighty. We are also to learn that rich men and poor men have both been assigned to their stations in life by the Almighty. We are to further learn that rich countries and poor countries are also of His making. These facts are confirmed by the following passages:

"The Lord killeth, and maketh alive: He bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. The Lord maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up. He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunhill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and he hath set the world upon them" (I Sam. 2:6-8).

What right does God have to make the land desolate or fruitful, or what right has He to make one man rich and another poor? The answer is as stated above where we read, "For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's..." We may have a deed to a small portion of the earth, but, as far as God is concerned, the land is not ours, but His. This fact means that He has the right to evict us when He pleases. You will recall that He evicted the seven nations from the land of Palestine and moved the Israelites into their place. Now, in the lesson before us, He is evicting the house of Israel from the very land He gave them. This was because Israel, His vine, had become unfruitful, yea, they had become a degenerate vine. Job said that the Lord giveth and taketh away. This was certainly true relative to the house of Israel. He, in fact, raised up us Gentiles in their place.

MAINE

(Continued from Page 6)

quently, it was truly a blessing to them to have a service with a live preacher. They talked repeatedly of the blessing of this, and have written me concerning this since my return home.

It was a blessing to meet Dick Meserve, Mrs. Meserve's husband during this trip. He was very kind and thoughtful, and I enjoyed getting acquainted with him. He purchased some souvenirs and gave them to me to bring to Katie. He promised to maybe visit us here sometime in the future. I look forward to this.

Sunday afternoon came. The visit was drawing to a close. There was a tinge of sadness mingled with our great joy. But we knew that God had blessed us greatly, that we would have fellowship (at least by mail) in the future, that we would be praying for one another, that we might meet again here, and that we would surely meet again some day in a glorious heaven where we would nevermore part. The Farrens took me to the airport at Bangor. I arrived home without incident late Sunday night.

Brothers and sisters, this week-end was one of the high points of my total ministry. I cannot describe the glorious blessing that it was to my life. It was truly a mountain top experience. I shall remember it forever. I do thank God for the wonderful privilege He gave me to meet these wonderful saints, to visit the beautiful state of Maine, and to have this blessed experience. Please pray for these folk.

This experience made me feel so small. I was treated as if the king had arrived. I could not have experienced better treatment. I felt so unworthy of all that was done for me. This experience made me feel so big. To be used of God to be such a blessing to these three saints made me feel like a giant, yet so unworthy of being so used of my sovereign God. I have been re-living and re-enjoying this experience ever since my return. Truly, I am most unworthy of receiving such a blessing from the Lord, but I do praise His dear name for granting me this blessed week-end in the beautiful state of Maine.

As I think of these three saints and of what my tapes and The Baptist Examiner means to them, I am determined, by the grace and power of the Lord, to try and do a better job here. There are many who write me as to The Baptist Examiner being all they have except their Bible. Oh, do pray for me that I might make the paper a better paper, and that it will be more of a blessing to its readers. You brethren who write for the paper, and you who should write, think on these things. There are many who have no further ministry than that of The Baptist Examiner along with their personal study of the Bible.

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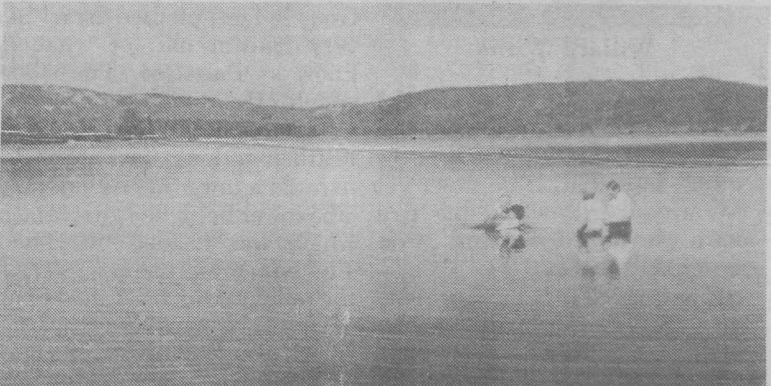
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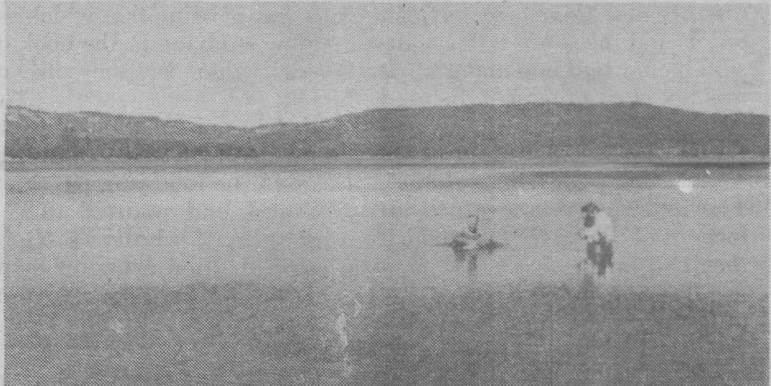
Just before being baptized.



Vera Farren is baptized.



Clover Meserve is baptized.



Frank Farren is baptized



Four happy people coming out of the lake.

FEAR NOT, LITTLE FLOCK

by Kathryn Parrish

Fear not, little flock, for the Father has promised
To give you the Kingdom some day;
Fear not, little flock, though you're small and despised,
And men heed not what you say;
For when you assemble, the angels are there,
They carefully listen to your words and prayers,
So fear not, little flock, fear not.

Oh, Jesus has said when you gather together,
That there will He be in your midst;
So fear not, little flock, no matter the weather,
For what a great promise is this!
Just keep up the work He gave you to do,
Be steadfast, unmovable, faithful and true,
And fear not, little flock, fear not.

Fear not, little flock, and be not discouraged,
For you are a part of His Bride,
Some day up in heaven, without spot or wrinkle,
With joy, you'll be by His side;
And then you will say it was worth it all,
As you live in that city of clear jasper walls,
So fear not, little flock, fear not.

Editor's note: We have a book of Sister Parrish's poems available from our book store. We are selling them just now for \$2.00. They are usually \$2.50.