

CAN A CHILD BE SAVED

by Doug Newell
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Mark 10:13-16, "And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the lit-



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le children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein."

Can a child be saved? He most certainly can, beloved friends. There is not a verse of scripture in the Bible that would teach otherwise. Many might say, "Why write an article, then?" Well, I write this because there are those who teach and believe that a child cannot be saved because he is too young. Yes, there are even

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MY RELIGION

by John Alber
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Twenty-four years ago this particular month (January 1985), it was my school assignment to write a paper for an English class in my High School and my subject was, my religion. There was a very good reason for the choice of the subject, for the English teacher of that particular class had made much fun of my beliefs publicly



John Alber

and this preacher felt a statement needed to be made. Unfortunately, at the time of writing that paper, I was not really aware of the harsh feelings that many have towards those who hold to the wonderful and most glorious doctrines of God's sovereign grace. But it was not long before I learned that simple lesson — my English teacher literally went through the roof and tore my paper apart from limb to limb. That hostility has become even more obvious over the years, as those who claim to believe the blessed eternal Word of God hear of our Biblical posi-

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

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THE DESIGN OF THE ATONEMENT

by Earl Smith
Plumerville, Ark.

"Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world" (Acts 15:18). Everything God does is according to design or purpose. Ephesians 3:11 speaks of "the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord." He had a design or purpose in creation, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou has created all things, and for they pleasure they are and were created" (Rev. 4:11). He has a design in providence, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28). He has a design or purpose in the satisfaction which was wrought by Christ, "Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you" (I Pet. 1:20). Let us notice some of the things about the design or purpose of Christ's satisfaction or atonement.

I. THAT GOD MIGHT BE MAGNIFIED. Proverbs 16:4 informs us that, "The Lord hath made all things for himself..." The great end which God has in all His works is the promoting of His own glory, "For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory forever. Amen" (Rom. 11:36). The design of God in creation, in providence, and in redemption is the magnifying of Himself. "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his

will, To the praise of the glory of his grace..." (Eph. 1:5-6). So, He predestinated His people to His glory. Christ received us to the glory of God. Ephesians 1:12 tells us that we have obtained an inheritance in Christ to the praise of His glory. Philippians 2:11 tells us that every tongue shall yet confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. The supreme purpose of God's sending Christ into the world was to display His glory. The prime purpose of God in the atonement was to magnify Himself.



Earl Smith

II. THAT THE GOD-MAN MIGHT BE GLORIFIED.

God created all things by Jesus Christ. All things were made by Him. All things were created by Him and for Him. He is the only medium of union and communion between God and man. God is going to, in the dispensation of the fulness of times, gather all things in Christ. The stupendous work of redemption was given into the hands of Jesus Christ. The Father sent forth Christ as the God-man on His errand of saving mercy that Jesus Christ might obtain honor unto Himself...When Judas went out to betray Him, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man

glorified." The mediator was honored by God having committed to His care the mightiest work of all. It was a work that no other was capable of performing. To Him was entrusted the task of glorifying God here on earth by the redeeming of God's elect. Jesus said to the Father, "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do" (John 17:4). The Father has always been glorified in heaven, but Christ glorified Him upon the earth by His redeeming death on Calvary. He completed God's design, executed His decrees, and fulfilled all His will.

Having so gloriously glorified the Father, the Father has proportionately glorified the Mediator. He gave His Son power over all flesh, that He might give eternal life to those given Him by the Father, (John 17:2). His glory is great in the salvation He accomplished. Honor and majesty has been given to Him. He has been blessed forevermore. Oh, this was a grand design of the atonement: that the God-man should

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HEAVEN, YOUR SORROW TURNED TO JOY

by Sam Wilson
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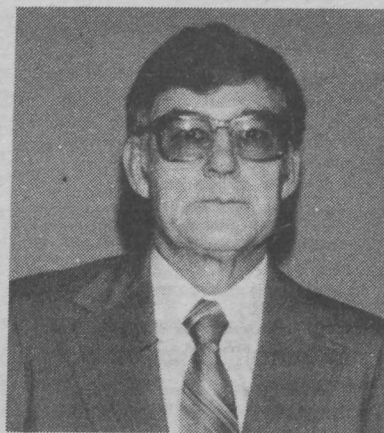
Please read John 16:17-22.

These words of Jesus Christ to the disciples are not true only for them. I think they are equally true for the present-day disciples of Christ. Though the reasons and circumstances may be different, God's people are still faced with much sorrow. The lament Jesus is speaking of here is to be caused by the vicarious death of Himself.

WERE YOU CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST?

by Ray Brown
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Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me, and gave himself for me." Paul isn't talking literally here, that he was nailed to a cross and



Ray Brown

dropped in a hole upon that hill and hung between heaven and earth and suffered and died in anguish and pain. The two thieves were literally crucified with Christ, one on the right hand and one on the left, God saved the one on the right. Paul said, I am not crucified literally as the two thieves, but Christ was crucified for me and He was crucified in my place. I was

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The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Joseph M. Wilson

THE WEEPING BACKSLIDER

"And Peter went out, and wept bitterly" (Lk. 22:62).

The difference between the saved and the unsaved with respect to sin is not that one sins and the other does not sin. All men do sin. Only liars and heretics claim to live without sin. Honest, saved, spiritually-minded men and women confess their sins and do not make any pretense of sinless perfection. However, there is a difference between the saved and unsaved with respect to sin. This difference is their attitude toward sin. The saved person does not love sin. When he realizes that he has sinned, he grieves over it. He does not boast of it and glory in it. He repents, weeping bitter-

ly. In this message, I have a sad story with a happy ending. Praise God for the happy ending.

Let us think awhile of the story of Peter's denial of the Lord. This denial was foretold by the Lord. He warned Peter of this sin. Peter denied that he would do such a thing. He could not believe that he would be guilty of such a terrible sin. Now I believe that Peter was totally sincere in his denial that he would ever do such a thing. I believe that he fully intended to be true to Jesus. I believe that he was honest in this matter. Oh, he loved the Lord! He did not intend to deny Him. He was willing to die for Jesus. But you

see, Peter did not know the depth of his depravity. Friend, even after we are saved, the old nature remains unchanged within us. Every saved person has the same sinful nature that he had before being saved. He still has the flesh. He has a new nature, praise God; but he also still has the old nature. There lies within the depravity of every saved person the awful possibility of committing any sin that an unsaved person can commit—except the unpardonable sin—whatever that is. Now, we need to realize this. We need to see the evil possibilities that lurk within us. We need to know this so as to be on our guard, and so

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life. To the contrary, it promises much the opposite. A biographical study of God's Word will show that even in the greatest of God's men there was much sorrow. David said "...my sorrow is continually before me" (Psa. 38:17). Paul said, "That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart" (Rom. 9:2). Even Jesus Christ Himself was said to be weeping with sorrow, and was called a "man of sorrow, acquainted with grief." I know many Christians or professed Christians who get mad at God because their life is not a "bed of roses." They seem to think God

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Cling to the whole Bible, not a part of it. A man can't do much with a broken man.

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JOSEPH M. WILSON, EDITOR

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WEeping

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as to earnestly ask the Lord for help in this battle. One needs to know the presence and the power of the enemy so as to be properly prepared for the warfare.

Then, Peter did not know the weakness of his flesh. He had strong desires in the spirit. He had good intentions in the spirit. He fully intended to be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ and to die before he would deny Him. But Peter did not know his own weakness. Peter's ignorance of his own weakness, his ignorance of the possibilities of his depraved old nature, his proud confidence in himself, led to his downfall. But let us not be too severe on Peter lest we be guilty of the same and experience a like fall. Does any one of us really know how much sin we are capable of? Would not most of us shrink from the hint that we might do such and such a sin? I am fairly certain that most Christians would be highly offended if I should suggest to them that they might commit some terrible sin. Does anyone of us know how weak we really are? I doubt that we do. I fear that most of us have a higher opinion of ourselves than we should. Brethren, if it were not for the grace and power of God, we might fall into the grossest of sins before the hour passed. Let us be humble. Let us realize our possibility of great sin. Let us realize our weakness. Then let us earnestly beseech the Lord's grace and power to work in us and deliver us from ourselves and enable us to live to His glory.

Peter's denial of the Lord is almost unbelievable as we look at the total picture of Peter. Oh, what a great man of God he was! See him in his faithful following of the Lord. See him walking on the water — and though he walked only a few

steps, that was more than you or I have done. See him giving his noble and honored confession of Jesus Christ. See him on the day of Pentecost preaching the gospel to the salvation of thousands. See him as he died a violent death to the glory of Jesus Christ. Oh, as we look at the totality of his life and service for the Lord, we can hardly believe that this man did truly deny his Lord. But he did.

And, in the ups and downs of Peter, can we not see our own spiritual history? We have been



Joe Wilson

up. We have been close to the Lord. We have felt His presence and His power. We have stood true at times, bold as a lion. We have suffered for His name's sake at times, and refused to compromise or deny Him. But, oh, we have also had our downs, haven't we? We have been cold and indifferent. We have denied Him. We have compromised our convictions and standards. Ah, me, we are cut from the same cloth. We, all of us, have our downs. So, let us look on our

brothers and sisters with the eye of compassion. Let us seek to restore those who are overtaken in a fault, considering ourselves, lest we also be tempted. Let us sympathize with, encourage, and help our fallen brother today. Tomorrow, we may be the one in need of such help.

The denial of the Lord by Peter came about through other failures. Our big falls do not come on us all of a sudden. By little failures, here and there, we pave the way for those big falls that hurt our testimony so much. Peter had too much confidence in the flesh. Peter did not understand the Word of God about the coming death of Christ as he should have. Peter was sleeping when he should have been praying. Peter followed afar off. Peter boasted of what he would and would not do instead of humbly asking for God's help. Peter warmed himself at the enemy's fire. All these things led to the big fall, and this is true with all of us. We have neglected the closet. We have left off a spiritual reading of the Word of God. We have drifted far from the Lord. We have companioned with the wrong crowd. All these things have robbed us of our strength. We are as befuddled of spiritual power as was shorn Samson. And then we go down in some big fall that causes much harm to our souls and our testimonies. Let us be careful about the little things of Christian living. Let us be faithful in doing our daily duties. Let us pray much and study God's Word much. Let us daily seek for grace to live a proper life for His glory. It may be

that close attention to little things will save us from the big falls. At least let us try this and see what the results will be.

Now let us look at the actual denial of our Lord by Peter. He was accosted by a little maid who said that he was with Jesus. He denied it. Later he was again charged with being one of Jesus' disciples. He said that it was not so. Then another confidently affirmed that Peter was one of them. Peter then betook himself to the old language of swearing, and took an oath that he did not know the Man. Would you believe it? Peter swore, and on his oath said, "I do not know the man." Don't you know Him Peter? Remember how you met Him, and how He told you you would one day be a rock? You have not been much of a rock this night, have you, Peter? Peter, don't you remember how you spent three years with Him, listening to and wondering at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth? Peter, do you remember how He reached forth and caught you when you were about to sink in Galilee? Oh, Peter, you have rejoiced in His presence, you have heard His words, you have felt His power; don't you know him, Peter? But in the weakness of the flesh, and in the depravity of his old nature, Peter swears on his oath, "I do not know the man."

Let us look at some of the consequences of this sad denial. It hurt the Lord. The Lord loved Peter. It hurt our Lord that one of His disciples would deny Him. It always hurts true love to be denied by the one whom it

loves. I do not think it hurt Jesus overly much that Pilate would not give Him justice, that the Pharisees and others were against Him. I do not think that the howling mob, crying out for His blood greatly hurt the Lord. But, when Peter denied Him, it surely hurt our Lord.

It hurt Peter. Oh, how it scorched his soul, how it harmed his spirituality, that he had denied his Lord. We have felt the hurt of sin in our own soul, have we not? We have failed the Lord. We have committed some sin. And like a sharp dagger, our hearts had been pierced with a great hurt. The believer can sin. But he can not sin with indifference. He cannot sin with joy. He hurts when he sins, yes, he does. The unsaved can delight in his sin, but the believing child of God cannot.

And it hurt others when Peter denied the Lord. I doubt not but that some of the other disciples looked up to Peter. He seemed to be a leader among them. He often spoke out as their leader. They had heard him tell how that he would die for the Lord before he would deny Him. But the story goes around. Peter has denied our Lord. I am sure that the other disciples were greatly hurt by Peter's denial. And my brother and my sister, when you sin greatly against the Lord, when the news goes out that you have greatly failed your brothers and sisters will be hurt thereby. They believed in you. They looked up to you. You were an encouragement to them. They often wished that they were as good a Christian as they were

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FROM THE EDITOR

as they see fit in this matter. Let those who believe that the administrator must be an ordained person practice this. Let such even rebaptize those coming to them who did not have such a baptism if they see fit. Let those who believe that a church cannot authorize a non-member to administer baptism for her practice such. Let such even rebaptize any who come to her membership who did not have such a baptism. Let those who believe that the administrator does not necessarily have to be ordained and does not necessarily have to be a member of the authorizing practice as they see fit. If one party feels that they must invalidate the baptism of the other party, let them do so. Let them rebaptize any who come to them if they desire to do so. This is a ticklish matter. It could become very troublesome. But I am pleading that we take this attitude and approach.

I do make this very definite plea. Let none of the differing parties in this controversy seek to unchurch — to refuse to recognize as a church — the church that differs with them on this matter. Let each pastor and church be fully persuaded in their own minds. Let them not unchurch, split from, or fight with those who differ with them on this matter. If one church administers a baptism with an administrator of which another church would disapprove; and if that member, for whatever reason, seeks to join the disapproving church; let such church rebaptize the person. But let that church not unchurch the church which administered the first baptism, and let the church which did administer that baptism not split with the church who felt she must rebaptize the said member. Brethren, can we not do this? Can we not live like this?

Now, when and if a church should take the position that church authority is not necessary to baptism, that is another matter altogether. I plead for no compromise or tolerance in such a situation. Though I think we could all show more Christian love, even to those whom we just cannot recognize as true churches. But brethren, so far as I am aware, all parties involved in this present controversy do adamantly believe in church authority for baptism. I do not know a one of them who would administer baptism without the authority of a church. I do not know a man in our midst who believes that an individual, ordained or otherwise, has the right to administer baptism without church authority. Let us seek to be very fair and very honest in this matter and not falsely accuse anyone. Understand that if a man or church should believe that an individual, ordained or otherwise, has the right to administer baptism without church authority; I do not ask for any toleration of such. I would speak out against such forthwith. What I am asking for in this editorial is that, to those individuals and churches who do believe in church authority for baptism, that we show a spirit of tolerance and Christian love for such, even though we may differ somewhat. Brethren, will we do this? Let us do this. Let us not have another fight. Let us not have another split. We believe in Landmarkism. We believe in the church being local and visible. We believe in the doctrines of grace. We do not believe in a universal, invisible church. We believe that Baptist churches are the only true churches. We believe that the authority to do the Lord's work, including authority over the ordinances, is given only to true churches. Oh, we believe so much alike. Let us leave a few things to the differing understanding of differing individuals and churches without fighting, splitting, or unchurching one another. Comments welcomed.

WEeping

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sure you were. But you have fallen. They have heard the sad news, and they are deeply hurt.

Now let us notice some things at the close of Peter's denial of the Lord. There was the crowing of the cock. This must have brought a deep shock to Peter. Our Lord had informed him that he would thrice deny the Lord before the cock crowed. This crowing must have brought the Lord's saying to Peter's mind and made him aware of the terrible sin he had committed. There was the look of our Lord, "And the Lord turned and looked upon Peter..." (Lk. 22:61). Oh, that look, that look! It must have been a sad look of wounded love. I am sure that it pierced Peter to the depths of his soul. Peter now realized what he had done. There came home to his soul the reality of his great sin. It must have rolled over him like a mighty wave. It must have hit him like a bolt of lightning. It bowed him down under the heavy load of his guilt. I am sure that, at first, he could hardly believe he had done such a thing. But he had, and he realized it, and it bowed him down with great sorrow, and "he went out and wept bitterly."

Let us learn a few lessons right here. Let us learn that believers do sin, yes, they do. The best of men are but men at their best. The best of Christians do sin, and readily admit it. One may live very close to the Lord, and be greatly used of the Lord; but still that one will sin so long as he is in this mortal flesh. Oh, there is too much against us for us to pretend to live without sin. The world, with all of its allurements is against us. Who has not, at times, succumbed to its attractions? There is the devil, going about as a roaring lion, with great wisdom, and power, with a host of demons aiding him; ever seeking the sin and hurt of God's children. Who has not, at times been defeated by his power? There is the flesh, that enemy within, continually bringing its power to bear upon the child of God, continually holding one back from the total good that every child of God truly desires to be and do. Who has not been defeated by the flesh? Who has not had to cry out, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" (Rom. 7:24).

Let us learn that believers' sins are very, very hurtful. We cannot sin with impunity. We cannot sin without hurt to our Lord. We do grieve the Spirit by our sins. We hurt ourselves by sin! We suffer many a bruise upon our souls because of our sins. We hurt others by our sins. Our church suffers because of our individual sins. No one can sin to his own hurt alone. But, praise God, let us also learn that believers have a different attitude when they sin than that of unbelievers. The believer hates his sin. He grieves over his sin. He is never glad or proud about his sin.

Now, to the subject that heads this sermon, The Weeping Backslider. "Peter went out and wept bitterly." I have written in my Bible beside this verse, "on the way back." Peter did not rejoice in his sin. Peter did not run out and boast to others of his sin. He was deeply ashamed of his sin. He was truly

sorry he had sinned. He wept bitterly over his sin. Now this weeping over sin is an evidence of genuine salvation. I question you relative to some evidences that you are truly saved. I do not ask you if you sin, I know you do. I do ask you how do you feel about your sins? That is the question. The person who can enjoy his sin, rolling it like a sweet morsel under his tongue, savoring his relish thereof; that person is not a saved person. Dear friend, hear me now; if you enjoy sin, if you feel the same about it now as before you professed to be saved, if you do not grieve over your sins; you are lost and on your way to hell. You are not saved.

This weeping over sin by Peter was an answer to the Saviour's prayer. When our Lord warned Peter of his forthcoming denial, He told Peter, "But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not..." (Lk. 22:32). Oh, we have a great High Priest at the right hand of God who continually maketh intercession for us. He prays for us. His prayers are always answered. Those who are held up in the arms of the Saviour's prayers can never finally fall. They will be lifted up. They will be restored. They will be finally and eternally saved. "...And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (I John 2:1). Jesus prayed for Peter, and He prays for all His elect. His prayers are answered, and as a result, the Holy Spirit works repentance in the heart of the believer.

Peter's tears were a work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit indwells every true believer, yes, He does. And this despite the false teachings of the Holy Rollers — and of the Priesthood men. The Holy Spirit is grieved when the believer sins, and He will make the believer, to grieve over that sin. The Holy Spirit dwells in the believer for the believer to grieve over and repent of his sins against the Lord. That man who can sin willingly and knowingly, and not grieve over it, gives evidence that he is not indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

Weeping over sin is the work of the new nature. The new nature cannot but grieve over sin. Every believer has a new nature that hates sin. A pig may fall into the mud and stay there, wallowing in delight. But when a sheep falls into the mud, he will not wallow therein, but will get out. Truly saved people cannot but weep over their sins when those sins are brought to their attention by the Holy Spirit.

Peter wept as he thought of his sin. What an awful thing he had done. How could he have done such a terrible thing. The tears flowed as his guilt was brought home to his soul by the Holy Spirit. Peter wept as he thought of the consequences of his sin. Oh, his testimony was ruined. What would those who knew he professed to be saved think of him now? What would the other apostles think of him? Oh, the consequences of our sins, how we must weep over such. Peter wept as he thought of the Saviour. He loved the Lord; yes, he did. He had failed his Lord, but he did truly love Him. As he thought of what the Saviour had done for him; and as he thought of how he had hurt his Lord, the tears flowed. Peter wept as he thought of the future. What could he do now? Would he ever again be able to serve the Lord? Would he ever be able to tell others about Jesus? What could he now do

for the Lord whom he loved? He may have thought that it was all over for him so far as being a servant of the Lord, preaching His glorious Word. Yes, Peter must have wept as he thought about the future and wondered what it might hold for him as a preacher of the Word.

Weeping is not all bad. Weeping is often a very blessed and useful thing. Weeping is good for the child of God. There are blessed consequences that come from the Spirit-wrought weeping of the child of God. Thank God, Peter could weep over sin. There are a multitude who never weep over their sins. They laugh about them. They boast of them. But they never weep over them. Oh, to see some weeping over sin today. I do not know a greater need in our churches than to see believers truly weeping over sin — especially their own sins. When a child of God can be cold, indifferent, unconcerned; then, things are truly bad. But when the child of God begins to weep over his coldness and over his sins, then we are on the road to revival. Oh, to see some tears! The curse of our modern religion is its tearlessness. This dry-eyed religion is a curse to our churches. Pray God that He will send us some weeping believers, or rather, cause us to begin to weep over our sins.

Peter is now on the way back. Weeping over sin is the path to restoration. No sinning child of God will ever find his way back into sweet fellowship with the Lord except by the path of weeping over sin. Read Psalm 32 and 51. They tell the same story about David weeping over his sin that Luke 22:62 tells about Peter. The saints of God have always found that the way back is by way of the "trail of tears." I have a question. I do not have the answer. This question is a great grief to my soul. Why do we have so much backsliding, and so little weeping in our church today? Oh, read that a hundred times! This face shows us a reason for the lack of blessings that we experience today in our churches. If we do not get back to weeping, we will never know the blessings that true churches once knew.

Notice some of the consequences of Peter's weeping bitterly over his sin. He was forgiven. Yes, our Lord is gracious, merciful, and full of compassion. He ever stands ready to forgive the child of God who weeps over his sin. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9). Praise God for this truth...The dear Lord stands ever ready to dry the tears of His weeping returning child with the towel of His forgiving love. Peter was restored to fellowship, sweet and blessed fellowship, with the Lord. Peter was told to return to his work for the Lord. God was not through with him. The Lord did not put him on the shelf, on the junkpile; but restored him to the work of the Lord. Praise God for this. Peter was greatly used of the Lord after this, even more greatly than before. See Peter on the day of Pentecost as three thousand souls are saved under his preaching. That is the man who, a little while before, had basely denied his Lord. How came he from the depth of such denial to the pinnacle of such glorious and blessed usefulness in the work of the Lord? Why it was by way of the "trail of tears." He wept his way

back into fellowship with the Lord, and thence to the place of usefulness. I am not an advocate of the mourner's bench as a way of salvation for lost sinners. But I am a staunch advocate of the mourner's bench, or an adequate equivalent thereof, as the way for the backslider to return to fellowship and service. Peter found himself a mourner's bench, a place of weeping, and found restoration to fellowship and service.

Peter was a better man now. He was a better Christian now. His weeping had done him great good. Tears had done good for his soul. Dear friend, are you a backslider? Are you cold and indifferent compared to what you once were in the service of the Lord? Is there some known sin in your life? Are you out of fellowship with the Lord? Let me plead with you. Let me speak a word to your soul. Take the "trail of tears" back to fellowship with the Lord. Do not go on in your present condition. Think on your sin. Think on your Saviour. Give much attention to this matter. Do so until the tears begin to flow. Does a tear start in your eye even now? Do you, even now, feel a burden in your soul over your backslidden condition? Is your heart about to break over your sin? Let the tears flow. Let the tears flow. Let the tears flow. This is the way back. Back to sweet fellowship. Back to wonderful service in the Lord's work. Back to usefulness. Back to being a blessing to others. Oh, I recommend to you this, "trail of tears." May God bless you.

WERE

(Continued from Page 1)

crucified with Him as my representative. He took my place, He bore my sins, He took my judgment, and He took my punishment upon His body. If you have never experienced a crucifixion in you life then you are not saved. A man has to be crucified. In other words, He took my name, my sins, my iniquity, and my judgment before God to the cross with Him. Christ substituted and did this for all His people. All of the elect of God. Christ died and He suffered in their name and on their account. Christ never did anything wrong. He was the perfect, spotless, Holy Lamb of God.

Paul says, "nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me." Paul is talking about the Spiritual life. This life that I received from the Son of God, this life that I received because Christ was crucified for me. This is the new life that he is talking about. We have Christ in us by the power of the Holy Spirit. We have a new nature, a new man in us. God doesn't destroy the old life when He puts in the new life. After God saves you, you have two natures. He is talking about his new life, the life of justification. We live by the faith of the Son of God who loved us and gave Himself for us. The righteousness of Christ we have by faith in the merits of the work of Christ Jesus. II Corinthians 5:21, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." In other words, God has constituted Him legally in the Halls of Eternity to be the supreme sin sacrifice for His

people. That doesn't mean that Christ was made sin. He was made the sin sacrifice. God made Christ to be sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. That we may stand justified in the presence of God. A new birth or regeneration that puts us into the family of God. You become a child of God. Justification puts you in a position before God. Just as if you had never sinned. And the life of sanctification which we have from Christ in and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul is saying, "Christ upon the tree for me: Christ by His Spirit in me."

Now we are going to study the last part of the Scripture. "Who loved me, and gave himself for me." It is a marvelous and wonderful thing to be loved by the great sovereign God of this universe, and to experience this love in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. God does not know anything of love outside of Jesus Christ. The world might talk about the love of God and how they love the Lord. God doesn't know anything about it. (Romans 5:5). "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." The only way we can experience the love of God is through Christ. We love Him because He first loved us. No one can truly love God unless God loved them first. Paul is putting God's love in a personal perspective when he says; "who loved me and gave himself for me." Paul is not writing about his love for God, but he is talking about God's love for him. Paul is saying that he is a sinful man, but God still loves him. If you are one of God's elect, God loves you. God loved His elect so much that He sent His Son to die for them.

Man is dead in sin until God's precious love lifts the burden of sin from his shoulders. Sinners are adopted as sons of God through redemption. All sinners have been dead in sin since Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit. This is plainly stated in Genesis 2:17. A man is spiritually dead until God saves him by the power of the Holy Spirit. If God does not save the sinner, he will spend eternity in the lake of fire. As Paul states in Ephesians 2:45. If it wasn't for God's rich mercy, those dead in sin could not be quickened together with Christ.

We have never seen the true picture of total depravity. We have never seen the true picture of the moral decay of human nature as God sees it. God said, "Man is in a terrible state. His heart is dark and black and full of sin." He is wicked. He is born with his back toward God and his face toward Hell. Paul said. "You are dirty, you are filthy, you are in a terrible state, you are corrupted, you are as filthy rags." Paul is telling about the terrible state of depravity that man is in. "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us" (Ephesians 2:4).

Galatians 1:4, "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father." Christ voluntarily gave Himself. Not one charge will be brought against His peo-

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The Baptist Examiner Forum I

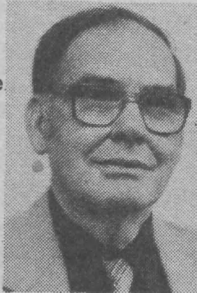
SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER — P.O. BOX 71 — ASHLAND, KENTUCKY 41101

Explain James 5:14-16 as to our day.

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In II Timothy 3:16 we read, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteous." This being true, we find that a study of James 5:14-16 shows this passage to be of profit to us today.

In this passage we are told that one who is sick is to call for the elders of the church and they are to, "—pray over him anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord" (verse 14). Praying "in the name of the Lord" means that they recognize Him as Lord, that He has absolute authority and He knows what is best for us. It means that we are submitting to His authority. Prayer in His name is really saying, "Thy will be done." The oil used is symbolic of the work of the Holy Spirit and not medicine as many maintain. We need to note that it is not the oil that heals, but verse 15 tells us, "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up." Now the Bible tells us that faith is a gift of God. Therefore, as the prayer of faith heals and that faith comes from God, the healing is entirely of God.

"—If he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him" (Verse 15). This would indicate that the sickness under consideration has been brought on by sins committed by the one who is sick. We know that some sickness is chastisement for sins. We see that from I Corinthians 11:30 where it is said, "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep." In I John 5:16 we are told, "If any see his brother sin, a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death."

James then tells us in verse 16 that we are to confess our faults and to pray for one another that we may be healed. I John 1:9 says that, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." The last part of verse 16 tells us that, "—The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Effectual prayers are prayers that bring about results. One thing very clearly taught in the Word is that we as God's children are to obtain blessings through prayer. This passage is saying that effectual praying is powerful enough to produce the intended effect, not that prayer changes the plans and purposes of God, yet our Lord said, "Ask, and it

shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matt. 7:7). Also James under the inspiration of the Spirit said, "...ye have not, because ye ask not" (James 4:2).

James now uses an example from the Old Testament to show how God answered prayer for Elias when he prayed that it not rain and it did not rain for three and one half years, then he prayed for rain and again God answered his prayer.

One very important thing we need to learn from this passage is the importance of prayer when sickness comes to the children of God. We need to also see that neither the elders nor any other saint has any healing power. The healing power rests entirely with the One to whom they pray.

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In these verses we are given a spiritual prescription for the physically ill saint to follow, i.e. 1. First, he is to pray for himself (Vs. 13). 2. He is to call the elders of the church, and inform them of his condition. He is not to assume the elders know of his circumstances, but he is apprise them of it. 3. He is to ask the elders to pray for him. The elders will certainly respond to the call of the sick person with a visit, and will ask permission to pray about the illness; but as with the all of the elders, the sick person is to take the initiative and ask them to pray for him. Either way the elders will most surely pray over him.

"...anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." The practice of anointing the sick with oil prevailed in the Middle East. It acted as a shield against the heat. Heat weakens the body, and the oil helped to retard or hold back the effects of the heat. Then too, it is said, that the oil helped to uplift the countenance of the sick person by causing his skin to have the appearance of health, rather than illness. The anointing was/is done "in the name of the Lord." That is, by His direction, authority, or the leadership of the Holy Spirit. It is, that all good deeds should be done in the name of the Lord. The anointing with oil is not a rite or sacrament.

"The prayer of faith." This simply means those who pray should have unwavering confidence in God. It is a faith which believes God will only do that which is wise, holy, and good. We are to express the earnest desires of our hearts in prayer to God, and wait on Him for the manifestation of His will in the matter.

"And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up." This cannot be taken in the absolute or unconditional sense, for if it were so, this formula would be

the panacea for all sickness, and physical death would be eradicated. It simply means, as with all prayers, it shall be if it is the Lord's will, but it is not always the Lord's will to heal every sick person. Whatever is best for the sick person, God will do. Sins properly confessed are sins forgiven.

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It is true that in Bible times they literally anointed with oil. The anointing oil was a special formula given in the Bible for that purpose. (See Exodus 30:22-25) Olive oil is not an acceptable substitute, even though most people who claim to anoint use it.

Should we use oil today? Does this passage teach that we should practice anointing with oil? I suppose that there are acceptable arguments both ways. The position that I have held (and am satisfied with) is that the emphasis is on prayer and not the oil. In fact I am convinced that we are anointing with oil when we pray for a sick brother or sister.

Please note in verse 14 the phrase "anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord" comes as an explanatory phrase following the instructions "and let them pray over him." This tells me that the act of prayer is the act of anointing. Verse 15 goes on to say that "the prayer of faith shall save the sick." Verse 16 says "pray one for another" and "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteousman availeth much." As you can see, the emphasis all the way through is on prayer.

If you study the history of the church in Acts and all the epistles you will find numerous passages dealing with prayer but not one dealing with anointing with oil. Please understand that I am not saying that we have to have several passages of Scripture before we are required to obey a commandment. One verse is enough and if this verse means literal anointing then we would have to be obedient. We would, however, have to use the proper formula for the oil in order to do so.

As I said before the context has convinced me that our prayer is the act of anointing and that is what I believe is the answer.

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James 5:14-16: "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him,

anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

I would urge you to get the last issue of T.B.E. and read that Forum answer along with this one. They are similar questions, even though there may appear to be a great difference in the time the two questions are recorded in the Bible. No great time lapse exists in the writing of the two Books that contain these questions. I do not wish to repeat a lot of that which was written in the last issue, so we will examine some different questions in this answer.

First, we ask, Who are the elders? I believe that the elders were preachers in the church at that time who were not the pastor of the church. These men would have been a great help to the pastor, and we have in our text one of the services they performed. In our churches today perhaps this would be done by the deacons and the pastor since most of our churches have only the pastor as a preacher in the church.

Secondly, we ask about the relevance of this verse for our day. On this point, I feel the same as I feel about Mark 6:13. I feel it was a special power given for a special period of time for the purpose of attestation. I feel it is important to note that James was an apostle and lived in the same period of time as did Mark. James and Mark both were involved in this period of time and with these special gifts. Let us now mention some reasons why I believe this is not for today or even all the recorded Bible days. We notice Paul says "I left Trophimus at Miletus sick." Paul did not go and anoint him with oil and raise him up, but rather left him there sick. Paul advised Timothy to "Use a little wine for the stomachs sake." Paul did not advise Timothy to be anointed with oil and prayed over by the elders. Certainly, I do not mean to imply by this answer that we are not to pray for the sick. We are commanded to always pray, but we must recognize that God doesn't work in the same fashion today as He did in the days of James. The modern day healing movement is not of God, but is of the devil. We know that, from a human standpoint, sooner or later this prayer would fail; for we all must either go in the rapture or die. When God's appointed time comes, no amount of prayer or oil will grant one more second to the one dying. We do not need miracles to attest to the authority of the church and God's work today. We have the Bible to teach us these things. I believe the relevance of this verse to us today is first, that we might see the attestation to Jesus' church as recorded in the Bible. Secondly, that we might see the sovereign power our God possesses. Thirdly, that we learn that our prayer is to be fervently to God.

I might also mention that the same question arises here about the oil that was presented in the last issue concerning Mark 6:13. The question of does the oil mean literal oil or is it an emblem representing the Holy Spirit. I leave that to you. May God bless you all.

WERE

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ple. The law of God, no, not only could bring a charge against God's elect people; those that have been saved and washed in the precious blood of Jesus Christ. The great Sovereign God of this universe unclothes Himself of His bright garments of light and took upon Him a body. He stepped down from the throne of glory, was born in a manger, and went to the cross. Romans 3:26, "To declare, say, at this time his righteousness; that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Justified completely and fully as if we had never sinned. Why? Because our sins are put upon the body of our substitute and taken away. Peter 2:24 "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sin, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

Hosea 14:4, "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him." Do you know what the word "freely" is? It is "without a cause." He loved me because Christ died, but Christ died because His Father so loved. (John 3:16) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Paul is saying I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Paul is saying this is the place of my identity the cross. I am crucified with Christ. It's a place of identification. Many people today don't want to identify themselves with the cross of Christ because they don't want to suffer. "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (I Timothy 3:12).

Paul is saying that we must identify ourselves with Christ's sufferings. We must be willing to bear the reproach of Christ to suffer for His name's sake. God exhibited His Son shamefully before the world. Galatians 6:14, "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." Read in Hebrews 12:2 Christ's cross was His throne. His crown of glory. He ran the race and became the author and finisher of our faith, the captain of our eternal salvation. Paul said, let me glory in nothing but the cross of Jesus Christ." Paul said, "By whom the world is crucified unto me." That's the doctrine of the cross. "And I unto the world," which is the cross of the doctrine. That's to deny self daily, take up the cross and follow Him. That's self-sacrifice, self-mortification, mortifying the deeds of the body, crucifying the flesh daily following Jesus Christ, and suffering for His name.

Galatians 3:13, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangs on a tree." The Jews never put their enemies to death by crucifixion. Sometimes they would try to bring shame upon a family and would hang one upon a cross after they were already dead. What is God's curse? It means separation. If a man is cursed of God, he is

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The Baptist Examiner Forum II

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

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

Is it possible that the Lord might chastise one person by bringing physical harm upon that person's loved one.



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as unto children. My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons." The word chastening comes from a Greek word PAIDEIA and denotes the training of a child, including instruction; discipline, correction. We that are saved are the sons of God. We are His children, therefore, He loves us and wants us to be wise, upright and decent. We as sheep are prone to wander and our Father chastens (spansks) us when we get out of line. Chastening is never applied to sinners for their good. However, it is applied to the children of God for their well being.

When God chastens lost people, He does so in anger but when He chastens His children, He does so in love. A father who never chastens his children has no respect from his children. But a father who chastens his children because he loves them and wants them to be decent and upright children who will not bring reproach upon him gains respect from his children. Children who are never corrected, never taught right from wrong usually have no respect for their parents, others, or authority; and become a problem to their parents and society. God wants us to be Christ-like, and an example to the world. He wants us to give Him honor. Our lives should be such that people might see in us a likeness of what we profess. Therefore, when we rebel, or fail to do this, our Father chastens us.

Does God bring physical harm upon our loved ones because of our disobedience? I think not. Do we hurt one of our children's loved ones in order to bring it back in line? No. I think the case with David and Job was not God bringing hurt on their loved ones but rather permitting things to happen to bring them to a sense of reality. God bless.

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It is a sure fact of Scripture that the Lord will chastise His children for their sins. Hebrews 12:6. "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." Just how or in what way the Lord may chastise His children we cannot know, but we know that He will. I would hesitate to say this is so among

the unsaved for I doubt that the unsaved count harm as chastisement from the Lord.

We read of the sins of David in the Old Testament. David sinned by looking where he had no business to look. Then he coveted. Then took Uriah's wife and committed adultery with her. Then he had Uriah killed. What a great sin this man of God committed! We read in 2nd Samuel 12:10-11, "Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. Thus saith the LORD, Behold I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun."

Now let us notice just briefly some of the things that took place in the lives of David's children. First the Lord chastised David by taking his baby by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Then there was the case of his son Amnon, who ravished his sister Tamar. Then as result of this Absalom hated Amnon because he forced his sister. Then Absalom's hatred for Amnon caused him to plan for his death, which he soon brought about. Then later Absalom turned against his father, David, and tried to take the kingdom from David. All this brought grief and sorrow in the life of David as the Lord said the sword would never depart from his house.

All that which took place in the life and death of David's children was the Lord's doings. There was a purpose for it. The Lord never does anything without a purpose and a design. The purpose in David's case was that the Lord might chastise David.

When we see harm come to our children we are made to feel that it comes upon them because we have disobeyed the Lord. When we see them sin and get into trouble do we not think within ourselves, oh, my sins have come home to me. I am being chastised in my children. Oh, how it grieves me to see my children suffer. I do not say this is so in every case, but it is many times. Sickness, troubles and trials come because of one's own sin. We suffer for our own sin and then we grieve when we see harm come to our loved ones.

The Lord has His way of bringing chastisement to each of us. Our God is an all wise Lord, and He will not do anything that is not right or needful and for our own good. What the Lord does He does for our good and not for our hurt.

WERE

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separated from God forever. That's a spiritual death. Jesus Christ bore the curse of His people, He bore the curse of the law. We were under the curse of the law. Jesus Christ bore that

curse. Philippians 2:8, "To be obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." The cross is a place of a curse. I Peter 1:11, "Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow."

It is also a place of offense. Galatians 5:11, "And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased." We are to suffer with Him that we might share in His glory. You talk to people and tell them that they are dead in trespasses and sins, their only hope is the Savior, and to trust in Jesus Christ and His death and the shed blood. They get offended. Don't let that stop you. God said you are to witness and tell people of your Savior.

The last point we are going to discuss is in Galatians 3:1, "O FOOLISH Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?" It's a place of divine revelation. Paul said, "How do I know Christ loved me and gave Himself for me?" Because it was revealed to me by the gospel of Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit. It will be revealed to you like it was to me. Galatians 1:15-16, "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood." I know I am saved because God's Word says so, and not because of some emotional feeling. Jesus put love and joy in my heart just like Paul wrote in Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." May God save you this day.

HEAVEN

(Continued from Page 1)

owes them peace, joy, and prosperity. God owes us nothing.

However, we can praise Him in that He has promised that whether we be rich or poor, happy or sad, persecuted or blessed, it "all works together for our good." We may not understand God's purpose, but we can believe it is for our spiritual good. We are not to look at sorrows and suffering as detriments to God or ourselves. Paul said, "...if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:17-18). Sufferings is a privilege, if it be for the cause of Christ. The greater our suffering, the greater our reward. Many so-called preachers promise the lost that they will reap rich rewards here on earth if they but "accept Jesus." We have no commission from God to lie to the lost in order to procure a confession. We cannot promise the lost anything physical on this earth except their needs, which God promised to provide. Sometimes

what we think we need and what God knows we need are two different things. When we are faced with sorrows let us not become bitter towards God, but realize it is for our good; then let us seek God's purpose for this sorrow. Let us examine some reasons for sorrow in Christians.

1. The sorrows of sin. Sin, such a small word, yet having so large a meaning and punishment. How our hearts ought to break over our sins! The fact is that we are audacious enough to break the laws of our God who has saved us. If sin does not burden your soul, then you are either lost or terribly backslidden. I think of David's burden of sin causing him to pray for restoration of the "joy of his salvation." Paul, a great man of God indeed cried, "O wretched man that I am," because of his sinful flesh.

Peter, after denying Christ, went out and wept with shame and sorrow. How is it with you? Does not your heart rent in twain when you grieve the Spirit of God by breaking His laws? Does not the burden of sin lay heavy on your heart when you fail God? When you neglect to read, pray, and witness, do you not feel as if your whole life is nothing but a failure? How sin ought to bring sorrow to our hearts. Let us remember all the Godhead has done, is doing, and will do for us. Remember how very much He loves us. Then let us remember how He hates sin and iniquity; and by remembering these things, strive for our sake and for His glory to live a holier life. Yes, indeed, we do have (always brought on by ourselves) the sorrows of sins.

2. Sorrows of sickness and pain. Being born again does not exempt us, or our family, from the sorrows of sickness. The apostle Paul had a "thorn in his flesh" that I am sure caused him much pain. We do not know what lies ahead; but, if the Lord doesn't come, with age our bodies will deteriorate and cause us much sickness and pain. Many of God's children are afflicted. I remember hearing of an aged saint, who had severe heart trouble and also arthritis. She could take nothing for her arthritis because of her heart and thus had no relief. Sometimes we have infirmities for which there is no cure. Oft times our loved ones are ill and in pain; this also brings us much sorrow. There is the failure of our body parts to function properly that brings us sorrow. I am bothered with poor eyesight, others cannot hear or see at all. Many may be crippled or paralyzed, all bringing sorrow to our hearts. There are those who may be born with deformities, either physical or mental, which bring sorrow to our hearts. I have a niece who was born a mongoloid; and though she brings joy to my heart now, I remember when I was first informed of her birth, how it broke my heart, both for her and her loved ones. While we are here on earth in our mortal body, we shall have the sorrows of sickness and pain.

3. The sorrows of death. Death, "the king of terrors," awaits us if the Lord doesn't come first. Death is the most certain and uncertain terror on earth. It is certain that God has said, "it is appointed unto man once to die" and "a time

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Hebrews 12:5-8 says, "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you



QUESTION: — Who told angels to wash their feet?

ANSWER: — Lot, Genesis 19:1, 2, "and there came two angels to Sodom at even;... and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them;... And he said, Behold, now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet."

HEAVEN

(Continued from Page 5)

to be born, and a time to die."

At God's appointed time, all the doctors and medicine in the world will not give one more second of life to the dying. It is the more uncertain in that we know not when or how or where. Will death come today, tomorrow, one year or ten years from now? A question we cannot answer. Will death be of old age, heart attack, car wreck or murder, we know not which. Will it be at home, hospital or where, again we know not. Perhaps it shouldn't, but the thought of death does bring sorrow and fear to our weak hearts. It is a little sorrowful to think of leaving our loved ones, even though we go to a better place. There is the death of our loved ones which often times breaks our heart. Some of our loved ones die lost and we realize their destiny, thus bringing much sorrow to us. Even when we lose loved ones who are saved and have gone to be with the Lord, our hearts are sad. In time we shall all lose loved ones. Our husband or wife, son or daughter, brother or sister or even those friends who are dear unto us. I do not understand how the lost bear it without God's grace to help. Oh, that God would spare us this sorrow; however, His will shall be done.

4. The sorrows of worry. I do not understand why, but we are a worrying people. Perhaps our worries are financial, physical or simply fear. The reason for worry does not change, it comes from our lack of ability to control our destiny. God has promised to provide us our needs. He has said, "Thou will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee (Isa. 26:3). Worry is so unnecessary. Yet it does bring sorrow into our life.

5. Sorrows from our loved ones. Our loved ones often bring much sorrow into our life. Think of Absalom, how he broke David's heart. Knowing our beloved are lost without Christ saddens our heart. To see them rebel against God and parents brings remorse to our souls. To see them sick, hurt or deprived brings sorrow to us. To see them content in their sin, their unconcern for Christ breaks our heart. Yes, many a heart has been broken by those whom they loved the most. As long as we have loved ones, they shall bring us sorrow.

6. Sorrows of the world. When I view the degradation of America, it strikes fear in my

heart. It is sad for children to be raised at a time when depravity is at its fullest. The cults are seemingly taking over. Drug use and alcohol are rampant. Promiscuity is raging. It does indeed bring sorrow to my soul to see this abundance of wickedness. To know that this world will only get worse and worse, (regardless of what the post and a-millennialists say) just deepens my sorrow. If ever there was a time when we, as parents, need to take a stern hand in raising our children, it is now. The youth of this nation need our help and prayers. When I view the debauchery of this world, it does bring sorrow to my soul.

Beloved, all Christianity is not sorrow. Jesus promised that though we may now be sorrowful that "joy cometh in the morning." He said that "sorrow shall cease and joy abound." We can rest assured in the promise of God. We can know that no matter how much sorrow we are called on to endure here on earth, the joy we shall know will make it all worthwhile. Praise God that sorrow shall cease and joy take its place.

What are the joys Jesus has promised we shall have? We have seen the sorrows of this earth, now let us look at the joy of heaven.

1. Joy of knowing there is no more sorrow. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, no crying, neither shall there be anymore pain: for the former things are passed away" (Rev. 21:4). How we will rejoice and praise God when we cross over Jordan and realize there is no more sorrow. All those things that plagued our heart with sorrow, God will take away and replace them with objects of joy. Dear brother, be not discouraged, lift up your heart in joy. The sorrows of this earth aren't for long, and when they are over we shall enjoy eternal bliss. How gracious is our God. How great are His mercies, to take filthy worms of sorrow and turn them into saints of joy. How happy we will be when God causes us to realize there is no more sorrow, no more tears and no more pain; nothing but eternal joy.

2. Joy of escape from hell. Escape from that eternal pit of damnation. Escape from the wrath of God. When in glory we think of hell and those suffering, we will rejoice that we have been redeemed from that place. When our faith becomes reality and we are rejoicing around God's throne we will have joy over our deliverance from hell. Many think this deliverance from hell is all there is to salvation and that will be the only joy, but escape from hell is just the tip of the iceberg compared to all the joys God has in store for us.

3. Joy of deliverance from the bondage of sin. How wonderful it will be; to be free from sin. Revelation 21:27 states "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie." A place where there is no sin. We will no longer have to listen to the profanity, witness the drunkenness, or view the filth of this present world. We will look all around and see nothing but purity and godliness. Oh, to think of this place does bring joy to my heart. To face no more guilt for breaking God's law, to view myself committing no sin,

not even having a desire to sin does bring joy to my heart. How we ought to now be preparing ourselves for this place. How we should strive to progressively reach for that state of perfection which shall be ours. There is joy for us in knowing we shall have no sin.

4. Joy of having a new body, "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body" (Phil. 3:21). God is going to give us a new body. A body in which every feature is perfect. A body in which there are no infirmities to bring sorrow to our hearts. On earth, when we see those who are blind, lame, or afflicted, it often saddens our heart. In heaven we will see no such afflictions. All afflicted will be healed. Again, joy awaits us in glory.

5. Joy of rewards. How gracious can God be to reward such understanding worms as ourselves? He works in and through us to do good and then rewards us for it. The joy of taking those rewards and presenting them to Christ who made them possible is indeed a great one. Those who are faithful members of true Baptist churches will face the joy of being in the Bride of Christ. This we ought to strive for. How happy we should be just to think of this opportunity. There is indeed joy in heaven.

6. Joy of learning all about the Bible. How deep the pages of Holy Writ are. Our shallow minds cannot begin to understand the depth of God's Word. Those questions we worry about and study, seeking to understand, shall be answered for us. Perhaps, then, God will reveal unto us the mighty works of Christ while on earth. I long for knowledge of God's Word and will rejoice when in Glory it is revealed.

7. Joy in seeing those gone on before. The men of God's Word, David, Paul, Moses and countless others will be there. The greatest union of people there will ever be. The writers and preachers of the past, I think of Spurgeon, J. R. Graves, B. H. Carroll, Bro. John Gilpin and countless others. They will all be there. I think of my loved ones who will be there. I long to see my departed brother Steve. To look upon his face and rejoice together over the God that brought us there. I think of those who will cross Jordan before I do, there is joy in knowing I shall see them again.

8. Joy of a new land. Read John 14:1-6. Jesus has promised to come back and take us to a better place that is not polluted with sin as this earth is, but beautiful and perfect in every way. Streets of pure gold, clear water, and fruitful trees are just a few of its illustrious attributes; a land of no crime and sin. A land of the best company ever assembled. When I think of this land, I rejoice indeed.

9. The greatest joy of all, seeing and dwelling with Jesus Christ. The latter part of I John 3:2 states, "...we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." Oh what unspeakable joy, what heavenly bliss to see Jesus Christ, the one who went down into the pit to obtain a ransom. Notice "see him as he is." To see the nail scarred hands, the pierced side, the bruised face, the plucked beard, the striped back and the scarred head, of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ will indeed bring joy to my heart. To think of all He has done for us and finally to

behold Him face to face. To think we shall dwell with Him for all eternity is a joyous thought. Yes, beloved, lift up your head in praise, for though we have sorrow now, look at the abundance of joy we shall have.

These words I have written do not begin to explain the joy we shall feel in those days. God has joys for us I'm sure He did not even mention. Remember this, when sorrow compasses about you, the "joy cometh in the morning."

Lastly, I am sad to say, there is another side. Those who have their joy now, will have their sorrow later. I pray this is not your condition. If it is, remember the only escape from this future sorrow is Jesus Christ, repentance and faith in Him. In closing let me ask in all sincerity. Will your sorrow be now or later? Your joy now or later? May God bless you is my prayer.

CAN

(Continued from Page 1)

Baptists that believe this. In our text we found that Jesus was displeased with the Baptists that believed that the children couldn't come to Christ. Jesus said to suffer, or send, the little children and forbid them not. The word forbid is translated from the Greek word "Kolo," which means "to hinder." Let us think about this for a while before continuing on. Let me ask the reader, are there any of you guilty of hindering a child from coming to Christ? Now, understand that I know the saving power of God, the saving power of His Word, and the effectual working of the Holy Spirit. I know about the doctrines of His saving grace, and that when God is ready to save a soul there is none that can stay His hand. I believe and preach all of these truths. But what I mean by hindering is, do we keep the gospel from them? Do we neglect the young children as far as our preaching is concerned? Do we think that they are too young to be saved and that they don't need the gospel? There are those who deliberately do this and there are those who do this unawares. Think of all the parents who hinder their children by not taking them to church. Oh, what terrible parents these are! They claim they have a great love for their children, when in fact, they keep them from the words of life. I see so many children in the neighborhood where our church meets out running around while we have our services. Their wicked parents are in the house doing things they think are important, thinking to themselves what good parents they are, uncaring that their children are headed for a burning hell. What an awful thing it will be in hell when these children will scream to their parents, "Why? Why didn't you take me where I might hear about this place? Why didn't you tell me about this one called Jesus?" No, beloved, a love like this is no love at all. Then, there are those saved parents who hinder their children. Knowing the depravity of man, it's understandable how a lost parent would keep his child out of church, but I can't understand saved people doing it. Yes, there are those who have been saved by God's grace who will not bring their children to church. They have slipped into a backslidden state and care not for the souls of their own children. I think, beloved, that

this is about as low as any one can sink, hindering their own children from coming to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. I even know of unsaved children wanting go come to church and the saved parent not letting them come. May God forgive them. May these parents repent of this awful and terrible sin. Oh, saved mother and dad, bring your children to church. Don't hinder them.

Then, I think of the preacher who hinders the children from coming to Christ. Preacher brother, don't exclude children from your preaching. I hear some preachers preach and think that their main objective for the sermon is to see how many ten dollar words they can use in their sermon. Brother, if our preaching goes over the heads of our listeners, then we have failed. We should follow after our great example, Jesus Christ, and preach plain and understandable messages. Well, enough said about these things, and on to our question:

Can children be saved? I think one of the main reasons that men have doubts about children being saved, is that they forget what salvation is. The Bible says in Ephesians 2:1, "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins." Beloved, any time a soul has been saved a great miracle has taken place. Whether he be seven years old or seventy, he is dead in trespasses and sins. In Romans 5:12, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." It's no more of a miracle for a child to be saved than an adult. Now, if you can understand this one point, then you will have no problem believing that a child can be saved. Intelligence and wisdom give the adult no advantage over the child as far as salvation is concerned. The natural man has no wisdom. The Bible says wisdom comes from God. Proverbs 2:5-6, "Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding." So, beloved, man's wisdom has no bearing on the saving of his soul. We're told in Romans 3:11, "...there is none that seeketh after God." Old or young, man will not seek Christ. He is dead. He is spiritually dead and can't do anything for himself. If you were to go to your local funeral home and tell the corpse that he had better get out of that casket because there is a pit dug where they are going to put him if he doesn't get up and leave. You can tell him this all day long and he'll just lie there. Beloved, the Bible teaches us that the last are that dead. It teaches that they are just as helpless as far as seeking God and fleeing to Him for salvation. The natural man is dead in trespasses and sins. That's why Jesus said in John 3:3, "...except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." This great miracle of salvation; the lost sinner is born again. And how is he born again? Well, we're told in John 3:5, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." We're born again through the preached word and the effectual working power of the Holy Spirit.

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Too many people mistake their own prejudices for the will of God.

STUDIES IN EZEKIEL

Willard Willis, Monroe, Ohio

Chapter 31 Willard Willis

"And it came to pass in the eleventh year, in the third month, in the first day of the month, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, speak unto Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to his multitude; Whom art thou like in thy greatness?" (Ezek 31:1, 2)?

The "eleventh year" which is referred to in the above, was the time of Jehoiachin's exile. The date is calculated to be June, 588 B.C. It, in fact, was about two months before the fall of Jerusalem. It was at this time that God the Spirit, through Ezekiel, asked the solemn question relative to the people of Egypt, and their pharaoh. The question was: "Whom art thou like in thy greatness?" The answer, of course, was that there was none like them. They stood above all nations, just as United States Steel stands above all other steel companies, or as General Motors stands above American Motors. The fall of General Motors would alarm the world. Smaller automobile companies, in fact, would be greatly alarmed, since their thoughts would be that they would be next. The same thinking can be applied to the fall of Egypt. The rest of the world would ask the solemn question—"What force, or what power has been used in the downfall of Egypt?" The answer comes ringing down from heaven as stated in the following passage: "And I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and disperse them among the countries; and they shall know that I am the LORD" (Ezek. 30:26).

"Behold, the Assyrian was a cedar in Lebanon with fair branches, and with a shadowing shroud, and of an high stature; and his top was among the thick boughs. The waters made him great, the deep set him up on high with her rivers running round about his plants, and sent out her little rivers unto all the trees of the field" (Ezek 31:3, 4). The Pharaoh and his people felt that there was no way in which they could fall. They, in fact, were like one of the giant cedars in the country of Lebanon. God, however, emphasizes that the Assyrian was also a cedar in Lebanon, or like unto one, and he fell. It, in fact, was upon the ruins of the Assyrian kingdom that Nebuchadnezzar had built the Babylonian kingdom. The Assyrian kingdom was not in Lebanon, but in Mesopotamia. Lebanon is mentioned only because the comparison is with the giant cedars which were located there. The cedars of Lebanon, in fact, grew up to eighty feet in height with a shape that was beautiful to behold. They were made up of thickly interwoven branches which provided a forest like shade. The height of the cedars and the formation of their branches was the result of an abundant supply of water from the Tigris river and her branches.

The Assyrian kingdom, according to verse three, was like unto an eighty foot high cedar in Lebanon. The cedars in Lebanon did not grow without help. They, in fact, needed the Tigris and her branches. The same applied to the Assyrians.

They, in fact, according to verse four, were made great by the "waters", or lesser nations. The roots of Assyria went out to the lesser nations like a pipe line. The rivers, according to verse four, ran "round about his plants". The above reminds us of the rivers that run round about the automobile producing plants of our day. The water of the rivers being the markets which feed the plants and the markets which purchase the cars which they produce.

"Therefore his height was exalted above all the trees of the field, and his boughs were multiplied, and his branches became long because of the multitude of waters, when he shot forth" (Ezek. 31:5). The Assyrian kingdom and their king, beginning with Nimrod,



Willard Willis

was exalted above all others. They, as is true of an eighty foot high cedar, look down on all around them as being shrubs. A giant cedar, of course, requires an abundance of water to sustain it just as America requires an abundance of oil to sustain us.

"All the fowls of heaven made their nests in his boughs, and under his branches did all the beasts of the field bring forth their young, and under his shadow dwelt all great nations. Thus was he fair in his greatness, in the length of his branches: for his root was by great waters" (Ezek 31:6, 7). America certainly fits within the framework of the above passage. I'm not saying that the above refers to America, but only that other nations dwell in our shadow, etc. An industry, when it moves into an area, brings a lot of people with it. People, in a sense of speaking, "make their nests" in its boughs and raise their young under its branches — branches which may speak of medical coverage and all the other things which a family may need. "The length of his branches" vary according to the size of an industry. The Assyrian nation, however, was very large. Her branches therefore extended for great distances even over the fence of many neighboring nations.

"The cedars in the garden of God could not hide him: the fir trees were not like his boughs, and the chestnut trees were not like his branches; nor any tree in the garden of God was like unto him in his beauty. I have made him fair by the multitude of his branches: so that all the trees of Eden, that were in the garden of God, envied him" (Ezek 31:8, 9). The cedars, fir trees and chestnut trees which were in God's garden (Eden) could not compare with the cedars of our text, that is, the Assyrian kingdom. God, in fact, according to verse nine, had "made him fair". Here is a fact that each of us should ponder. It is the fact that God made Assyria exactly what

she was. The same applies to America today. God has made America the tallest cedar with the longest branches that was ever in the history of the world. He has provided abundant waters which are piped to the very roots of America. The comparison of the Assyrian kingdom to the trees in Eden, probably stems from the fact that the Assyrian kingdom was located in the same general area as the garden of Eden.

"Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast lifted up thyself in height, and he hath shot up his top among the thick boughs, and his heart is lifted up in his height" (Ezek 31:10). The chapter before us relates to both the kingdom of Assyria and the Egyptian kingdom. The Assyrian kingdom is being set forth as an example as to why the Egyptian kingdom was to fall and to the extent of the fall.

I make mention of this because it is difficult, at times, to distinguish between which kingdom Ezekiel is referring to. We, in fact, in verse ten, have the pronouns "thou" and "he". It appears to me that "thou" refers to the pharaoh of Egypt while "he" refers to the Assyrian leader who had already been destroyed. Both the Assyrian leader with his people and the Egyptian leader with his people, were guilty of the sin of pride — pride which recognized only the achievement of men — pride which had no place for God — pride which did not recognize God as the creator and the sustainer of all His works. "I have therefore delivered him into the hand of the mighty one of the heathen; he shall surely deal with him: I have driven him out for his wickedness. And strangers, the terrible of the nations, have cut him off, and have left him: upon the mountains and in all the valleys his branches are fallen, and his boughs are broken by all the rivers of the land; and all the people of the earth are gone down from his shadow, and have left him. Upon his ruin shall all the fowls of the heaven remain, and all the beasts of the field shall be upon his branches. To the end that none of all the trees by the waters exalt themselves for their height, neither shoot up their top among the top boughs, neither their trees stand up in their height, all that drink water: for they are all delivered unto death, to the nether parts of the earth, in the midst of the children of men, with them that go down to the pit" (Ezek 31:11-14).

We, in the passages before us, learn, first of all, that it was God who determined that the Assyrians kingdom had to fall. God, in fact, in verse eleven, states: "I have therefore delivered him into the hand of the mighty one of the heathen". The historical record shows that Cyaxares, king of the Medes, in the twenty-sixth year of his reign, in conjunction with Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, in the first year of his reign, destroyed Nineveh, and with it the Assyrian kingdom. God, in verse eleven, states: "I have driven him out." Here, again, we see the unseen hand that is acting in the affairs of the kingdoms upon the earth. We can surely say that America is

great because God has made her great.

We, in verses twelve through thirteen, observe the effects of the fall of the Assyrian kingdom — the great cedar. The cedar was cut down so that its branches fell here, there and yonder. There remained no shadow for those countries who had taken refuge under the branches of Assyria. The fowls of the heaven and the beasts of the field climbed upon her branches; that is, the vultures of the earth — the lesser nations, were quick to step in and take advantage of her ruin (a rich man loses his friends when he loses his wealth). We learn from verse fourteen that the "end", or the purpose for the fall of the Assyrian kingdom, was so that all would hear and fear. It was so that "none of all the trees by the waters exalt themselves for their height", or because of their height.

"Thus saith the Lord God; In the day when he went down to the grave I caused a mourning: I covered the deep for him, and I restrained the floods thereof, and the great waters were stayed: and I caused Lebanon to mourn for him, and all the trees of the field fainted for him" (Ezek. 31:15). It is customary for a nation to mourn when their leader dies. It is also customary for other nations to send representatives to the funeral of the fallen leader. God also caused mass mourning when the Assyrian kingdom fell. He, in fact, covered the deep, or put it in black and "restrained the floods thereof, and the great waters were stayed." The floods and the great waters had been the source of life for the great cedar. The waters being that which had nourished and sustained the Assyrian kingdom. These waters, or business transactions from other nations were now brought to a stand still while the nations mourned.

"I made the nations to shake at the sound of his fall, when I cast him down to hell with them that descend into the pit: and all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that drink water, shall be comforted in the nether parts of the earth" (Ezek 31:16). The fall of the great and majestic cedar was so great that the nations shook when it hit the ground. They shook, because the indication was that they were next. The fall of so great a nation as Assyria meant that the balance of the nations had no more hope than a balloon in a briar patch. The word rendered "hell" in verse sixteen should read shoe, or the region of the dead. The result of the fall of the great, great cedar (Assyria) would cause all "that drink water", or the lesser kingdoms "to be comforted in the nether parts of the earth"; that is, they would be comforted because the proud cedar had now been brought as low as themselves.

"They also went down into hell with him unto them that be slain with the sword; and they that were his arm, that dwelt under his shadow in the midst of the heathen" (Ezek 31:17). All went to a common destiny where the small and the great meet together — to where all suffer alike and have the need of the same things. The

Missionary To
New Guinea
Eld. Fred T. Halliman



FRED T. HALLIMAN

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great Assyrians, in fact, were not able to take any of their wealth or influence with them into the region of the dead. There they became like unto those who had been slain by the sword, or those who had dwelt under their shadow. "To whom art thou thus like in glory and in greatness among the trees of Eden? yet shall thou be brought down with the trees of Eden into the nether parts of the earth: thou shalt lie in the midst of the uncircumcised with them that be slain by the sword. This is Pharaoh and all his multitude, saith the Lord GOD" (Ezek 31:18).

The parable having been finished; God says, in essence, to Pharaoh, "Thou art the man." You and your people, as was true of Assyria, will now enter into oblivion. Your greatness has now come to an end and you will now be no more important than those who perish by the sword or the uncircumcised of the earth. Let all know from a careful examination of the chapter before us that our Lord hates a proud heart and a proud look. Those we have been considering did not believe that every good and perfect gift has come to us from God's bountiful hand. They, therefore, fell short of God's glory, or they failed to give glory to God or even to acknowledge Him as God. May we make every effort to attribute to God that which is due Him. May we not fail to give Him thanks for every good and perfect gift.

CAN

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Therefore my friends, it is no harder for the Spirit to save a dead child than it is to save a dead adult. Man has nothing to do with his salvation, but God performs a great miracle within

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CAN

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him and makes him a new creature.

Now I believe that infants and young children, when they die, go to heaven. I believe that there is an age of accountability, and that this age differs with the individual. But, the Bible teaches that, until they reach that age, if they die they will go to Heaven. But even these must be born again. The Bible doesn't say how this is accomplished, but I personally believe that God sends angels to declare the gospel to them. I could be wrong on the messengers, but not on the fact that infants and very young children are born again through the gospel before they die. Think back, if you will, of David. He had committed adultery with Bathsheba. As a result of this sin, Bathsheba bore David's child. Because of this sin, God told David that the child would die. The child died and David spoke these words found in II Samuel 12:23 "But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." Remember now, David wrote these words under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This is not just something that David hoped might happen, but beloved, this is a Bible doctrine. We're told in II Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." David knew his child had gone to heaven, and that one day he would join him there. All of this shows us that salvation is truly a miracle whether it be an adult, a young child, or even a baby. Don't doubt that our great God is able to do this.

There are Bible examples of children professing Christ as their saviour. One that comes to mind is Samuel. Let's read I Samuel 3:7-10, "Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him. And the LORD called Samuel again the third time, And he arose and went to Eli, and said Here am I; for thou didst call me and Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child. Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the LORD came and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered Speak; for thy servant heareth." Samuel came to know the Lord as a child. He acknowledged Him as his Lord and he, as His servant. Now this is done only when one is saved. There's also a good lesson taught here to parents. Notice how the Lord was working with Samuel and he didn't understand what was going on? Eli knew that if it was the Lord working with him that Samuel would soon know it. Parents, don't mislead your children into making a false profession. If the Lord starts to work with your child, He's not going to quit. Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good

work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." You be faithful in giving your children the gospel and leave the saving to God.

And then I think of those children who were in Jerusalem when Jesus came riding on an ass. There we see those children professing that Jesus is God. Matthew 21:15-16, "And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David; they were sore displeased, And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, out of the mouths of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?" Yes, beloved, God does save children. These are two Bible examples of this fact.

Another reason people doubt the salvation of children is they expect them to be perfect. They expect them to behave like adults, and when they don't, they doubt they were ever saved. A child is a child. I Corinthians 13:11, "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things." When a child is saved they do not become an adult, they are saved children. People see a saved child lose his temper or argue with another child and they want to doubt that child's salvation. But this is understandable because the grown-ups that are saved never get mad, or they never argue, they never fail to serve God like they should. Or do they? Listen, beloved, we all sin. We all fall short of the glory of God. Don't expect the saved child to be perfect. Don't expect him to be more than he is. Don't expect a child who has been saved by God's grace to quit playing with toys and playing games. That is their nature.

Praise God that He saves children! What a wonderful thing when God saves one of your children and you no longer have to worry whether or not they will be saved. I hope that those who differ with this article will see this great Bible truth. I hope that we preachers will not forget the young children when we preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. I hope that you backsliders will repent and not hinder your children from hearing the gospel. Suffer the little children to come unto Jesus, and forbid them not.

RELIGION

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tion on sovereign grace. They claim one thing and then turn around and deny it time after time.

Religion as defined in Webster's Dictionary is one of the systems of faith and worship, or the service and adoration of God, or a god as expressed in forms of worship. This same definition can be applied to any form of service or worship or adoration practiced anywhere in the world. Thus, we literally have thousands of systems of religion in this world, and many forms of Christian faith. My religion is one of those forms that is found within the teachings of so-called Christianity — teaching that can be and is grounded and rooted in the Word of God. Furthermore, it is a basic belief that can be found not only in my present church — The Providence Baptist Church of Kountze, Texas,

but in many towns and villages throughout the globe. Furthermore, it has been observed by many that my religion has its very foundation in the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ and His divinely appointed apostles. Because of that basic truth, my belief is just a little bit different from many other beliefs that can be found in my own town. Not only that, but the beliefs and practices of my church has been handed down from our Lord Jesus Christ unto this present time.

Twenty-six years ago when my sovereign eternal God reached down and saved this poor wretched sinner by His wonderful and matchless grace, He also led me to a Bible-believing church that was founded on the Biblical premise that our Lord Jesus Christ started His church. Thus, right from the very beginning this preacher was taught by one who believed that all authority consisted within the church that our Lord Jesus Christ started during His earthly three and one half years of public ministry. But that was not the reason why I chose to attend that particular church. One thing stood out and that bright and clear as I visited that church: the Bible alone was the text book in the pulpit and in every Sunday School class. Furthermore, the doctrines as unfolded in the Bible were accepted and taught as God-breathed and God-given. There was a healthy attitude and respect for the precious eternal Word of God — for they believed that the Bible alone should be our guide for both faith and daily living.

Over the years some of my beliefs have drawn much ridicule by those who do not know truth as we do. Several reasons may be given for that fact, and in part it may be due to misunderstanding on their part as to what I believe. But for the most part, many reject our doctrine because there is no love of God within them. Our doctrine is not an easy one to accept and the natural man will not, on his own, come to an understanding of Spiritual things as we know them. The natural man (I Corinthians 2:14) resents what we stand for in Sovereign Grace Baptist Churches and that because they cannot comprehend Spiritual truth in the efforts of the flesh.

My religion -- beloved, my religion or even yours is of absolutely no value whatsoever if it is not of God! The natural man is only interested in himself and a religion that is man-centered. He will not and cannot of his own will seek after Almighty God and that because of his own human depravity. The first thing that I was taught in my home church was that the Bible is the sole authority for what we believe and what we thus should practice. Therefore, I literally call into question those things that are expressed or even allowed in my church that cannot first be found within the pages of God's Holy Writ, the Bible. Thus, my church or yours can not rise above that which it holds dear and precious, the living eternal Word of God. Our religion ought to be hammered out on the anvil of God's Word.

We believe or rather affirm the Biblical doctrines of grace. Some may call them Calvinism, but we believe that they were taught long before John Calvin was ever born. Others may refer to them as the Tulip and be very proud of their convictions. But if the person in question would

honestly take a long and serious look at the doctrines of the Tulip, they would immediately recognize that they have absolutely nothing in themselves to glory in — that is, save the Lord Jesus Christ and His shed blood in their behalf. Two systems of belief have been around from the time of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden: works and sovereign grace. The former may and does take on different shapes and sizes as the various theologians attempt to explain away God's divine plan and program, but the latter gives the credit to God alone for our eternal salvation.

We believe or affirm the absolute sovereignty of Almighty God in all things. Furthermore, we can not see how any man can deny this Biblical doctrine in light of what the Holy Scriptures teach. On the account of man's depraved sinful nature, the Bible teaches us that God the Father elected certain ones unto eternal salvation from before the foundation of the world — Ephesians 1:4; Revelation 13:8; 17:8. Furthermore, the Scriptures tell us that God the Son died for the elect on the cruel tree of Calvary — Galatians 4:4-5; Romans 5:8. Wherefore, the Holy Spirit of God effectually brings the elect of God unto full knowledge and assurance of salvation — John 6:37-44. Thus, only those whom the Father loved from before the foundation of the world, for whom the Son died for at Calvary, and whom the blessed Holy Spirit calls out, are saved — Romans 8:1, 33, 35-39. What our eternal omnipotent God started, He alone will bring to its final end. Salvation is of the Lord God of Heaven — and that is exactly what Jonah the prophet told us — Jonah 2:9. God is not only sovereign in matters pertaining to our glorious eternal salvation, but in all other things. Daniel the prophet told us that very clearly in the fourth chapter of his book: "...he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" (Daniel 4:35).

We do affirm or believe that our Lord started a local New Testament Baptist Church and that He promised to it perpetuity — Matthew 16:18. That to His Church and His alone our Lord gave the Great Commission — Matthew 28:18-20. Furthermore, we do hereby acknowledge that unless one has been given proper authority by one of our Lord's True churches, they have no right to call themselves a New Testament Baptist Church. That all other churches have no proper authority and therefore their baptism and communion is alien.

We believe or do affirm that the believing sinner is a fit and proper candidate for Scriptural baptism. That any baptism prior to Scriptural birth (being born again by the Holy Spirit of God) is alien to the Scriptures. Furthermore, that our Lord was dipped under the water — whereby giving not only an example unto us to follow, but a command for every Christian to obey. Scriptural baptism is not a privilege for a few elite groups, but a definite and personal command that needs to be obeyed by everyone who has been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Furthermore, we do affirm, and that without apology, that our Lord Jesus Christ is calling

out for Himself a Bride — a Bride that is His own, purchased with His own precious blood on the cruel tree of Calvary. Not everyone will belong to this group — only those who are members of a New Testament Baptist Church. The New Testament terms, church and body of Christ are one and the same and Holy Writ is clear that the Bride of Christ is His Church. Now, if there is no such thing as a universal-invisible church (and there is no such monster), then the body of Christ is a visible local New Testament Baptist church and we know of only one church that goes all the way back to our Lord Jesus Christ: the Baptists. On that one account we are accused of believing in a "Baptist Bride" and we plead guilty.

We believe or affirm that the Lord's True Church should not have anything to do with the unholy Roman Catholic Church or her little daughters: the Protestant churches. Biblical separation is imperative if we are to maintain a pure church. We have no Biblical right whatsoever to fellowship with the likes of these groups. May I go one step further, we have no right to align ourselves with conventions, associations, fellowships, etc. But then, why stop there? We do most graciously affirm that Mission Boards are unscriptural and do violate the authority our Lord Jesus Christ gave to the Local Church. Beloved, this is not a popular position and many would break fellowship with us over this issue yet we must be bold and hold to what the Bible teaches with regard to these issues.

We believe or do affirm that our Lord Jesus Christ is coming back for His own — John 14:3. We are Pre-Millennial in our outlook and Pre-Trib in our thinking with regard to when our Lord will return for His own — Revelation 3:10; 4:1. While many today are spiritualizing the Scriptures with regard to our Lord's second advent, we make bold our assertion that we look at the subject matter with an interpretation that is literal. Thus, when Holy Writ makes plain sense, we seek no other meaning.

We believe and do hereby affirm that our belief is in missions: home and around the world. The Lord gave to His church the Great Commission and He expects them (the church) to carry on a work for Him until He returns for the saints of God. That if we who claim to be Missionary Baptist have no mission outreach, then we ought to be honest enough to remove that title from our name. Missions is the heartbeat of every New Testament Baptist Church. Where there is no vision, the people will perish. Furthermore, missions are not just on the foreign field, rather everywhere. Some one said, "you are either a missionary or a mission field" and that is absolutely correct.

We believe and do hereby affirm that most, if not all, so-called religious holidays are unscriptural and thus have their origin in the Roman Catholic Church. Therefore, godly people should think twice before becoming involved with such evil practices. Furthermore, we do most kindly point out that Christians should never wear a cross around their neck, because in many ways, that in itself is a symbol of the pagan unholy Roman Catholic Church. That

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is just as true of pictures that we often find in homes and churches of the Lord Jesus Christ. They have no place in the believer's life and so the ones that use them are placing a stumbling block before fellow believers and a sign post to the lost that is wrong. May the Lord bless you as you think on these things!

DESIGN

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be glorified, magnified, exalted, and eternally praised by all the redeemed.

III. THAT GOD'S ELECT MIGHT BE SAVED "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Lk. 19:10). How different is this plain, positive, unqualified statement from that which most preachers proclaim today! Most preachers say that Christ came to make salvation possible. To reduce the wonderful, finished, glorious work of Christ to a mere "making salvation possible" is most dishonoring and indid not make the condemnation of all men possible. It actually secured the salvation of men possible. It actually secures and guarantees the salvation of all those for whom it was made. Praise the Lord! "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (I Cor. 15:22). Adam brought death to all whom he represented — even the totality of the human race. Christ brings life to all whom He represented in His death on the cross — even all the elect of God. Christ came to carry into effect God's sovereign purpose of election. He came to save a people already "His". "...thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). Since Jesus Christ is all that Isaiah 9:6 says He is "...Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace", there can be no possible failure in His mission to this earth. He came to "seek and to save." He does not "offer" to save. He does not "help" to save. He does not "try" to save. He actually does save all His chosen people from their sins.

He is all-wise, so He knows where to look for each one of His sheep so as to save him. He is all-powerful, so He cannot fail to save His found sheep. He is the Saviour. "Lost" is the condition in which God's elect are by nature. They have lost all knowledge of their actual condition. They are spiritually dead. They neither see their need of the Saviour nor seek Him. He did not come to see if there were any who would "seek" after Him. He is the seeker, the finder, and the Saviour. This is a major design of the atonement, and it shall come to pass. To Him be the glory! Amen.

Editor's Note:

You have just read some notes of a sermon by Earl Smith of Plumerville, Arkansas. Brother Smith will be preaching in a revival meeting at Calvary Baptist Church October 14th - 20th. We look forward to having this great man of God with us. Please pray for this meeting. If any of our readers can attend any or all of these meetings, we would be so happy to have you; and we feel sure that you would receive a great blessing.

(A Requested Book Review)

BOOK REVIEW

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" (Heb. 11:3).

"...avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science false so called" (I Tim. 6:20).

I have been asked by the author to review a book entitled "Science And Christianity" by John D. Callahan. I cannot think of two more appropriate Scriptures to apply to this review than the two given above. I will say that there are two things basically wrong with the book under review. 1. The author knows very, very little about Christianity. 2. He does not even know the meaning of the word "science." I will prove these two charges in this review.

The author knows very little, if anything at all, about Christianity. Let us see. He says, "mankind is always advancing and learning new things, but the Church has traditionally been stubborn to accept advances and new knowledge in science and history. This attitude is wrong and hinders others from becoming Christians!" The author is referring to so-called new truths of Science which are in total conflict with the revealed Word of God. This is clear from his whole book. He is saying that, when one believes the Bible instead of the conflicting views of science so called, that he is wrong and hindering others from becoming Christians.

The author says, "It is also a widely held belief that to doubt any part of the Bible is to reject the whole thing. These beliefs may sound good, right, and noble; yet they are wrong. The Bible was written by men and men err. It is that simple." He is, in this quote, also referring to men who, "believed that the Holy Spirit, wrote the Bible directly through the pens of inspired men. The Bible is often called 'The Word of God.' He is saying that these beliefs are wrong. He says, 'God does everything He can for man, but He is still limited by man's imperfections and disobedience. This limitation does not suddenly vanish when men write scripture.'"

The author quotes Ecclesiastes 3:19-22 and says, "No honest human being can say that God wrote the lines quoted above." Now, the man has set himself up on the judgment seat over a multitude of men. A vast multitude of the best of men on earth have believed that these words were written by God. Yet, our author says that not one of these men were "honest human beings."

The author of this comic-tragedy which he calls "Science And Christianity" says, "the Bible is not the perfect 'Word of God'... It is not perfect. It is flawed and manifests the imperfections of human writers." Dear reader, I ask you how a man can write words like these and know anything about Biblical Christianity? He cannot. The Bible is the one and only source book for information about true Christianity. The man who believes that the Bible is in error, is flawed, is not God's Word, is not perfect — that man cannot know the truth about Christianity.

The author says, "So also it is with the Bible. It is a great work

and gives the reader an extremely valuable history of God's dealing with man, but it is not perfect. Facts are confused." He then refers, and attempts to deal with the three accounts of Paul's conversion in Acts. As we read his feeble attempt at this, we learn that, not the Bible, but the author of this blasphemous book is confused. He invents error where none exists; he manufactures contradictions where all is in perfect harmony; he produces error where all is perfect truth; he then accuses the Bible of these inventions of his own depraved mind. There are no contradictions in the Biblical accounts of Paul's conversion. There is added light. One account complements another. All is in perfect harmony. The confusion is not in the Word of God, but is in the depraved mind of John D. Callahan.

The author says, "Therefore the Bible in the recording of historic fact is not absolutely perfect but rather suffers the fate of all historic works: it can only give an approximation of what actually happened." Would you believe this? A man claims that he is going to write a book to reconcile Science and Christianity, and then writes such blasphemy as this. I say again that this man knows little, if anything at all, about Christianity.

The author refers to the different accounts of the parable of the Sower. He says, "The point is, it was not recorded perfectly. So we have seen that the Bible is flawed like any other book. It is not absolutely perfect and 'The Word of God' (in the literal sense) as so many believe. It is flawed both in communication of relations and philosophical principles and in its recording of objective facts." He says, "How shall we approach the Bible then, knowing that it is flawed? We must approach it objectively. We must consider the claims it makes in the light of other facts, and then either accept or reject the evidence it presents on rational grounds. For too long Christians have sought truth under the presumption that the Bible is perfect. This has led to error because the presumption is incorrect. Here the Bible will be treated as valid but not perfect evidence in our search for truth." Brethren, it is blasphemy of the worst sort to put the word "Christianity" on the title of a book which teaches such heresy as this.

I apologize for my earlier saying that this man knows little, if anything, about Christianity. I ask my readers to forgive me. This man does not know anything at all about Christianity. This man does not know the Jesus Christ of the Bible. This man is not a saved man. No man can be a saved man and have this man's attitude towards the Bible. This man is going to look at what the Bible says. He is going to look at what others say. He is going to decide, according to his own mind, which is right. In other words, this man is an idolator of the worst sort. He does not bow down to gods of wood and stone. He bows down and worships the god of his own depraved mentality. He is not going to accept what the Bible says unless it meets the measure of his wicked mind. He is going to sit in judgment upon the Word of God. He is going to accept that part of the Bible that passes the test of his depraved reason. He is going to reject the rest. And this man purports to write about Christianity. I might as well write a

book on how to make an apple pie. I know more about that than this man does about Christianity. I know that you use apples, that is all I know, but I know that much. This man does not even know that one must bow to the absolute authority of the infallible and totally inspired Word of God. Here is a blind mind seeking to write a book on "How to See." Here is a deaf man trying to write a book on "The Beauties and Intricacies of Music." Here is a cripple writing a book on "Jogging." Oh, the blindness, the pitiableness, of this man seeking to write about that which he knows nothing at all.

God says, "...to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word" (Isa. 66:2). But, Mr. Callahan does not have a poor spirit. He glorifies in his pretense of great intellect and knowledge. He seeks to instruct the all-wise God of the Bible as to the errors in the Book that God has written. Mr. Callahan does not have a contrite spirit. He has the spirit of pride and arrogance. Mr. Callahan does not tremble at God's Word. He speaks repeatedly of the errors and flaws and confusion of the Bible. When God does look to such a man, it will not be in grace and favor; rather it will be in judgment and with a fiery indignation that will devour the adversaries. I say this on the supposition that Mr. Callahan continues through life and dies with his present attitude. It may be that Mr. Callahan is one of God's elect. If this be so, God will bring him to repentance, and one of the things about which Mr. Callahan will repent most earnestly is this horrible book I am reviewing. It may be that God will bring Mr. Callahan to faith in Jesus Christ, and if He does, Mr. Callahan will lovingly, gladly, reverently, whole-heartedly believe every word in the Bible.

Now, the first thing wrong with Mr. Callahan's book is that he knows nothing — I repeat, nothing — I repent of my earlier indication that he knew little — he knows nothing about Christianity.

Now, Mr. Callahan utterly amazes me. He says after referring to many Scriptures relative to the person and work of Jesus Christ. "The Bible is flawed, and there are probably errors even in the passages just quoted. However one thing is clear: Jesus was God. This then is repeated directly or indirectly in almost every page of the Gospels. He even speaks of repenting and believing in Jesus and receiving forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Now, Mr. Callahan, I want to know—we have to know—it is imperative that we know one thing. You have told us that the Bible is a flawed book. You have told us that the Bible is not perfect. It contains error. We must accept or reject it according to our rational decision. Now, Mr. Callahan please tell me how I can know what to accept and what to reject of the things taught in the Bible. You have told me that the Bible is wrong on creation, that no honest human can believe some of it, it is wrong on Adam and Eve. You have told me of so much that the Bible says that I am not to believe. Now tell me why I should believe what the Bible says about Jesus Christ. If I cannot believe what the Bible says about Adam and Eve, how can I believe what it says about Jesus Christ?

Brothers and Sisters, I must believe the Bible in its totality. I must believe the Bible because it is the Word of God, not because my rationality accepts it. I must bow before the Bible as God's inspired Word. If I cannot believe in the Bible, I can not believe in Jesus Christ. The Bible is my only source book for information about Jesus Christ. If I reject my only source book, I am left to wander in the darkness of human reasoning, to reject the only Saviour, and to go to an eternal hell.

Our author says, "The Bible is a very valid source, but it must be weighed against other evidence. If the Bible turns out to be wrong in areas, then it's wrong." He says of some things in the Genesis account of creation, "Of course, this is ridiculous." He then says, "A few examples of the story clearly contradicting itself are given below." "There are some of the fallacies of the creation story; there are many more. The point is that to the objective mind the story is not correct. The universe, the earth, and man simply did not come into existence as described. We know this from concrete scientific evidence and the story contradicts itself several times... Those who try and rationalize the creation story to be correct base their arguments on a false assumption: that the Bible must be perfectly correct. They start with this theory which they will not change, and try to make the facts conform... In many places the Bible is clearly right, but in many others it is just as wrong."

Enough of this. I can stand no more. I even hate to clutter the pages of The Baptist Examiner with these quotations. This man is a lost man. He is an unbeliever. He has attacked and belittled the Bible throughout his book. He knows nothing about Christ or Christianity. No saved man could ever write what this man has written about the Bible. Some day this author will stand to be judged by that Bible which he has so arrogantly judged and condemned in his book. All men will be judged some day by the Word of God. What a day it will be when despisers of the Bible, such as Mr. Callahan, stand to be judged by the Word of God!

I said that a second thing wrong with Mr. Callahan's book was that he did not even know the meaning of the word "science." Let me prove this. The word "science" means "knowledge." Now "knowledge" is a word which relates to "truth." "Know" is a verb which demands "truth" as an object. You cannot know a lie. You can believe a lie, but you cannot know it. You can only know that which is true. Therefore, science relates to the knowledge of truth. Science does not relate to lies, assumptions, guesses; but it relates to truth. Now if one will read this book I am reviewing, he will see that the author is talking about lies, assumptions, theories of man; and that he is calling that "science." My second text heading this article speaks of "...science falsely so called..." Now that is what Mr. Callahan is talking about in his referring to "science." He is not talking about true science. He is talking about fables invented in the minds of depraved men and falsely called science. So I say that he does not even know the

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REVIEW

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meaning of the word "science." Let us see.

He says, "Most scientists, on the other hand, are evolutionists." I beg to differ with the author. I make bold to say that there is not one scientist who is an evolutionist, not one. Now there are many men who call themselves scientists who are evolutionists, but they falsely call themselves such. A true scientist deals in the realm of knowledge. Evolution is a lie. Therefore it is not the object of knowledge, it is not an object of true science. As there is a science falsely so called, so there are scientists falsely so called. The author speaks approvingly of these so-called scientists believing, "Life having started in the sea billions of years ago followed by a slow process of change or evolution until we have the creatures, including man, that we see today." Ha, ha, ha! And Mr. Callahan is going to try to reconcile the Bible with this comic — tragedy story invented in the evil, depraved minds of men who falsely call themselves scientists. Brother, if the Bible is true (and it is) then evolution is a lie. Both cannot be true for they totally contradict one another. No man can believe the Bible and be an evolutionist. All evolutionists are unbelievers in the Bible no matter what they might pretend.

Mr. Callahan says, "when the earth was first created 4.5 billion years ago." What a joke. And this is science? The earth was created five days before Adam. Adam was created 6,000 years ago. The earth is 6,000 years old. One might argue for 8-10 thousand years as the age of the earth, but it is utterly unscientific to speak of the earth as 4.5 billion years old. This author says, "Now we are fairly certain that this present material universe began 10 to 20 billion years ago with a gigantic explosion — the big bang." This is a man-made — better a devil-invented — myth. It certainly is not science.

Let me now give you the comic-tragic fable that this author gives in his book for the origin of man on earth. "Anyway, human evolution runs something like this. About 60 million years ago a group of small mammals began to live in trees. These were tree shrews. They evolved into a number of animals called prosimians, which were larger and more adapted to tree living than the shrews. Various prosimians then evolved into monkeys. Monkeys are, in general, more intelligent and adapted to tree living than prosimians. By the time monkeys appeared, there were a great variety of primates. Primates are all these animals and also apes and man. Variety was caused by many different trees and climates around the world. Also, primates lived in different levels of the trees which called for different adaptations.

"As forests retreated in some areas due to climatic changes, some species of monkeys started to come down from trees and live on the ground again. They evolved slightly to meet this change... Now of the monkeys which remained in the trees, which was the vast majority, a few evolved into apes... Apes

are different than monkeys....

"Just as with monkeys, certain species of apes began to live on the ground... Since apes were not well adapted to ground living, they needed to evolve in some way in order to have a long term chance at survival. Now the apes made a remarkable adjustment indeed! They began to walk upright, which freed their highly dexterous hands. Their brains began to increase in size and use the hands to make tools. This gave the ground dwelling apes a great advantage over all animals. Eventually they evolved into man and dominated the world.

"This is all truly remarkable and fascinating, and while all the details may not be correct, the scientific model given here for the creation of life upon the earth is much more accurate than the creation story given in the Bible."

Now would you believe that a man can believe this hodge-podge of ridiculous assumptions, and have trouble believing the Bible account of creation? Well, Mr. Callahan fits this bill. He speaks of the Bible account as ridiculous and absurd, but believes this foolish fable just given. Do you see why I said that this man does not even know the meaning of the word "science"? Brethren, the Bible story of creation, of Adam and Eve, is much more easily believed than such absurdities as this man sets forth in his comic-tragedy called a book.

I repeat that the two major things wrong with this book is: 1. The author knows nothing of Biblical Christianity—and there is no other kind. 2. He does not even know the meaning of the word "science." I would urge Mr. Callahan to speedily repent of his terrible sin of writing this awful book. Mr. Callahan, God is merciful. If you will truly repent of your blasphemous, God-dishonoring, wicked book and trust in the Jesus Christ of the Bible, God will forgive your sins. It may well be that the worst sin you have ever committed is this horrible book I am reviewing. Mr. Callahan, you do not believe in the Christ of the Bible, though you sometimes speak in glowing terms of Jesus Christ. The Jesus Christ of the Bible believed that the Bible was the inspired, inerrant, authoritative Word of God. You do not believe this. The Jesus you talk about and the Jesus Christ of the Bible are two entirely different persons. One cannot truly believe savingly in the Jesus Christ of the Bible and write as you have about that Bible. Mr. Callahan, repent of your terrible sin, flee to the Christ of the Bible. He is very gracious. Should you die in your present condition, you will meet your blasphemous book at the great white throne judgment and give an account to God for your terrible sin, and be cast into the hell taught in that Bible of which you speak so derogatively. This is my review of your book which you requested. I could have said much more — and much worse. I have never read a book with the word "Christianity" in its title that was as far from being Christian as your book is. Your book will now find its way into my waste basket, thence to the garbage disposal system of our city. It will never find a place on the shelves of our bookstore. But, though all your books should find their way to the flames in this life, still your book would rise from the ashes to stand before you at the judgment to

condemn you for your terrible sin in writing it. That is, except you repent. I do not know what sins you have committed. I do not desire to know. However, I feel sure that the worst of all your sins is that of writing this book. May it please the Lord to have mercy on your guilty soul, give you repentance and faith — which you did not have when you wrote this book — and thus save you by His marvelous grace.

CALVARY CHURCH TAPE MINISTRY

Calvary Baptist Church has a tape ministry. We make cassette tapes of the pastor's Sunday and Wednesday sermons. These tapes are available to any interested persons in the following ways.

Below we will give you a list of the sermons already on tape. You may purchase any of these tapes for \$1.50. We are now able to reproduce one side of a tape. In this way we can give you one sermon from one tape and one sermon from another tape, both on one tape. If you prefer to have a tape like this instead of the tape as it now is, the price will be \$2.00.

You may be placed on our tape mailing list. We will send you the tapes of our Sunday sermons on a regular basis. If you desire it, we will also send you the Wednesday sermons. You may listen to these tapes and then return them. The only cost to you will be the return postage. If you desire to keep any of these tapes, you may do so and send us \$1.50 instead of returning the tape.

We would delight to have you in our audience in this way. We believe that this ministry could prove a blessing to you. It would be a very inexpensive way for you to sit under the sound of a true preaching of the whole counsel of God. It is our desire to add a multitude of our readers to our tape ministry mailing list. If you have any questions concerning this ministry, write Joe Wilson at the Baptist Examiner mailing address.

Notice in the list of tapes that we already have, the following: 1. A series on the Book of Revelation. 2. 22 sermons on Elijah. 3. A series on the Ten Commandments. 4. Side 2 of tapes 35-49 constitute a series on the deliverance of Israel from Egyptian Bondage. 5. A short series on the Holy Spirit. You may obtain any of these series.

Note that the listed tapes include sermons on the Doctrines of Grace, Church Truth, Prophetic Truth, Many evangelistic sermons, and many practical sermons. You may order any or all of the tapes. You may order any of the sermons as you desire.

The tape ministry is expensive. We delight to make it available to our readers at almost no cost, just return postage. However, if any of our readers would like to help us in this ministry; we will, of course, appreciate it very much. We just spent \$2319 in the purchase of a new duplicator. A brother on our tape mailing list gave a generous offering to get us started toward this, but we still had to pay over half of the cost. We could use some better recor-

ding equipment and better tapes. There is the constant cost of tapes, mailing bags, and postage. But remember, the ministry is almost free to you. We ask for nothing. We just say that it will be appreciated if any desire to help us in this work — maybe a sister church would like to do this. We do ask that you pray for this ministry. We also ask that you will help us advertise and promote and increase this ministry.

We will be glad to announce the tape ministry of others who are our kind of people, and who are friendly to us and our work. In this day of a "famine of hearing of the Word of God," this famine could be partly relieved by good, sound tape ministries.

1. 1) The High-Priestly Prayer of Jesus Christ, John 17. 2) The Six Trials of Jesus Christ.

2. 1) Arminianism and True Churches. 2) Luke: Beloved Physician, Fellow Laborer, Faithful Friend.

3. 1) The Salvation of a Run-Away Slave. 2) God's Hate List, Proverbs 6:16-19.

4. 1) Is Sovereign Grace Important? 2) Our Great High Priest, Hebrews 4:14-16.

5. 1) "Perfection" in Hebrews. 2) The Final Outcome of the Saving Work of Christ, Hebrews 2:13.

6. 1) We Have an "Altar", Hebrews 13:10. 2) The Bride of Christ.

7. 1) God's Chastisement of His Children. 2) Fools for Christ's Sake, I Cor. 4:10.

8. 1) Regeneration, James 1:18. 2) Availing Prayer, James 5:16.

9. 1) Can God Tame the Tongue? 2) The Sin of Respect of Persons.

10. 1) Christ Preaching to the Spirits in Prison. 2) Why Christ is Precious to Me.

11. 1) The Time Past and the Rest of Time, I Peter 4:2-5. 2) Why Christ Had to Die.

12. 1) God Stopping the Sinner. 2) Christ Suffering for Sin.

13. 1) The Elder and the Flock, I Peter 5:1-4. 2) Your Adversary, the Devil.

14. 1) Stirring Up the Saints. 2) The Origin, Interpretation, and Usage of the Bible.

15. 1) Wallowing in the Mire, II Peter 2:22. 2) Three Worlds, II Peter 3:3-14.

16. 1) God is Light. 2) Crying: Here and Hereafter.

17. 1) Six Witnesses to Saving Truth, I John 5:6-8. 2) The Ultimate, Complete and Eternal Perfection of the Child of God.

18. 1) The Sin Unto Death. 2) God's Commandments are Not Grievous to the Believer.

19. 1) The Elect Lady and Her Elect Sister, II John. 2) Love in the Truth, III John.

20. 1) Eternal Life or Eternal Fire — Which? 2) Some Ingredients of a Proper Christian Life, Jude 20-25.

21. 1) Revelation, Introduction and Ch. 1. 2) Revelation, Chs. 2,3.

22. 1) In the Spirit on the Lord's Day. 2) Churches and the Church Age.

23. 1) Revelation, Chs. 4,5. 2) Revelation, Chs. 6,7.

24. 1) The Effectual Atonement of the Worthy One. 2) White, in the Blood of the Lamb.

25. 1) Revelation, Chs. 8, 9. 2) Revelation, Chs. 10, 11.

26. 1) Only the Holy Spirit Can Produce Repentance, Rev. 9:20, 21. 2) The Sovereignty of God in the Tribulation.

27. 1) Revelation, Chs. 12, 13. 2) Revelation, Chs. 14, 15, 16.

28. 1) Events of the Mid-point of the Tribulation. 2) Rest or no Rest: Which?

29. 1) Revelation, Chs. 17, 18. 2) Revelation, Chs. 19, 20.

30. 1) The Old Whore and Her Golden Cup. 2) The Four Names of the Rider on the White Horse, Re. 19:11-16.

31. 1) The Great Commission. 2) The Biblical Presentation of Jesus Christ and Its Two-fold Implication.

32. 1) Revelation, Chs. 21, 22. 2) A Survey of the Book of Revelation.

33. 1) Even So, Come Lord Jesus. 2) Jesus Christ in the Book of Revelation.

34. 1) How a Lost Sheep Got Home. 2) Man, Left to Himself Will Go to Hell.

35. 1) Some Exercises Unto Godliness. 2) Israel's Bondage in Egypt.

36. 1) Our Unique Bible. 2) The Bitter Bondage of Sin.

37. 1) Easter. 2) The Cry of a Baby and the Heart of a Princess.

38. 1) Why Was Jesus Crucified? 2) The Choice of Moses.

40. 1) A Bible Weight-Watching Program. 2) The Bush That Burned and Did Not Burn.

41. 1) Breaking Up the Fallow Ground. 2) God's Answers to Moses' Objections.

42. 1) A Chosen People, An Irresistible Power, and a Predestinated Time. 2) Moses "Almost" Sin Unto Death.

43. 1) All Men are "Dead on Arrival". 2) When the Will of Man Meets the Will of God.

44. 1) How to Handle Temptation. 2) What Pharaoh Learned About God.

45. 1) Can These Bones Live? 2) God's Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart.

46. 1) Perseverance. 2) The Ten Plagues on Egypt.

47. 1) God's Plan of Salvation, Rom. 8:29-30. 2) Pharaoh's "Compromise" Offers to Moses.

48. 1) Help From the Sanctuary, Psa. 20:2. 2) Sheltered By the Blood.

49. 1) The Precious Blood of Christ. 2) The End of the Battle, Ex. 14:26-31.

50. 1) Foreknowledge and Predestination, Isa. 46:9-10. 2) Simon Peter: His Fall and Restoration.

51. 1) What Kind of Church Would My Church Be If Every Member Were Just Like Me? 2) From Depravity to Glory.

52. 1) The Great Commission. 2) The Faith of the Thief.

53. 1) Which "Whosoever" Are You? 2) The Rapture: What? Who? When?

54. 1) The Possible Influence of Proper Behaviour, I Peter 3:1-2. 2) God, The Saviour of All Men, Especially of Those That Believe.

55. 1) Getting Ready for Revival. 2) Putting Away the Leaven.

56. 1) The "Can" and the "How" of Revival. 2) The Kind of Revival We Need.

57. 1) Salvation, Only in Jesus Christ, Acts 4:12. 2) What Baptist Churches Have That Other Churches Do Not Have.

58. 1) Is There Anyone Saved Except Baptists? 2) The "Priesthood of the Church" Heresy.

59. 1) The Church in Prayer. 2) A Sleeping Christ in the Storms of Life.

60. 1) A Sermon from Hell. 2) Declaring the Whole Counsel of God.

61. 1) What the Future Holds for the Child of God. 2) The Sin

(Continued on Page 11 Column 1)

If none of your neighbors seem to have much religion, maybe it means that you have too little.

TAPE

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- of Covetousness.
62. 1) Christmas. 2) The Wise Men, Matt. 2:1-12.
63. 1) Two Cries for Mercy. 2) When I Fall, I Shall Arise, Mic. 7:8.
64. 1) Effectually Called and Hastily Coming. 2) The Pre-tribulational Rapture I.
65. 1) What the Elect Always Have Been, and Never Have Been. 2) The Pre-tribulational Rapture II.
66. 1) Old Paths for a New Year. 2) Jesus May Come This Year.
67. 1) Some Things Desired For Our Church This Year. 2) Good Works and Assurance.
68. 1) Elijah 5, Elijah at Zarephath. 2) Elijah 6, The Widow's Reward.
69. 1) Elijah 1, An Introduction to Elijah. 2) Elijah 2, Elijah Before Ahab.
70. 1) Elijah 3, By the Brook Cherith. 2) Elijah 4, When The Brook Dries Up.
71. 1) The Slimepits of Sodom. 2) Important Things in Proper Places.
72. 1) Elijah 7, Who is the Troubler of Israel? 2) Elijah 8, Preparation for Carmel.
73. 1) An Introduction to the Ten Commandments. 2) The Trinity and the Law.
74. 1) The First Commandment. 2) The Second Commandment.
75. 1) Elijah 9, The Defeat of Bad. 2) Elijah 10, The Victory of the Lord.
76. 1) A Blue Ribbon Christian, Num. 15:37-41. 2) The Basis of Millennial Faith.
77. 1) The Day Goeth Away, Jer. 6:4. 2) The False Hermeneutics of Amillennialism.
78. 1) Elijah 11, And the Rain Came. 2) Elijah 12, The Fall of a Giant.
79. 1) The Proper Treatment of Dumb Animals. 2) The Millennial Reign of Christ.
80. 1) Elijah 13, The Lifting Up of a Fallen Giant. 2) Elijah 14, The Believer in the Wrong Place.
81. 1) The Animal School, Prov. 30:24-28. 2) Valiant For Truth, Jer. 9:3.
82. 1) Elijah 15, God's Elect Effectually Called. 2) Elijah 16, Go, Return to Your Work.
83. 1) Not Under the Law, But Under Grace--For Salvation. 2) All Men of All Time are Always Under the Law of God.
84. 1) Atonement and Forgiveness. 2) Jonah, the Backslider.
85. 1) The Third Commandment. 2) The Fourth Commandment.
86. 1) Elijah 17, The Call of Elisha. 2) Elijah 18, The Faithful Prophet and the Thieving, Murdering King.
87. 1) Elijah 19, God's Vindication of His Servant. 2) Elijah 20, The Rapture of Elijah.
88. 1) Elijah 21, Following Elijah's Rapture. 2) Elijah 22, Some Characteristics of Elijah.
89. 1) A Compromising Husband and a Wife Who Would Not Budge, Judges 4. 2) Who is a Missionary and Where is the Mission Field?
90. 1) The Story of the Guards at Jesus' Tomb. 2) Courtesy.
91. 1) Some Effects of Sin in a Believer. 2) The Death of Ahab.
92. 1) The Ark of Salvation. 2) Water From the Rock.
93. 1) The Fifth Commandment. 2) The Sixth Commandment.
94. 1) The Besetting Sin. 2) The Company You Keep, Prov. 13:20.
95. 1) The Talking Book, Prov. 6:20-24. 2) The Importance of the Lord's Supper.
96. 1) The First No-heller, Gen. 3:4. 2) Some Attributes of God on Display at Calvary.
97. 1) Where is the Blood of Jesus? 2) Coming Into the Church and Going out into the World.
98. 1) The Devil and the Child of God. 2) True to God No Matter What, Dan. 3:17-18.
99. 1) The "Let God Save You" Heresy. 2) Israel-centered Eschatology.
100. 1) Disgracing the Grace of God. 2) Who Cannot, and Who Can be Saved?
101. 1) Receiving the Bible as the Word of God. 2) The Denial of Church Perpetuity and the Origin of False Churches.
102. 1) Lazarus, Come Forth. 2) Who Chose Whom?
103. 1) The Seventh Commandment. 2) The Eighth Commandment.
104. 1) Why Did God Make Woman? 2) Three Homes We All Need.
105. 1) Baa, Baa Black Sheep; The Sovereignty of God Over All things. 2) The Wonderful Word of God.
106. 1) False Preacher, Shut Up. 2) From a Prison to a Palace.
107. 1) Prayer, the Remedy for Adversity. 2) When Things Look Bad.
108. 1) God's One Standard of Moral Conduct. 2) The Law is Good.
109. 1) The Night of the Unsaved. 2) The Omnipresence of God.
110. 1) The Man Who Built His Own Gallows. 2) Ebenezer.
111. 1) A Heaven-bound Harlot. 2) The Omnipotence of God.
112. 1) The Ninth Commandment. 2) The Tenth Commandment.
113. 1) The Abiding Life. 2) The Omniscience of God.
114. 1) The Worth of a Soul. 2) Various Aspects of the Will of God.
115. 1) The Matter of Sin in the Children's Prayer. 2) Trust and Obey.
116. 1) The Comprehensive Character of the Law of God. 2) Salvation and the Law.
117. 1) Unconditional Election. 2) The Limited Atonement.
118. 1) Holiness is What It's All About. 2) Three Pictures of Christian Life and Service, II Tim. 2:1-7.
119. 1) The Grace of Humility I. 2) Broad Phylacteries and Large Borders.
120. 1) The Grace of Humility II. 2) Why Be Sure You Are Saved?
121. 1) Others. 2) The Roman Catholic Doctrine of Venial and Mortal Sin and the Bible.
122. 1) Man's Insatiable Appetite For Sin. 2) Night Visits of the Lord.
123. 1) The Glorious Gospel of the Blessed God. 2) Surveying Our Inheritance.
124. 1) All Things Given to Those For Whom Christ Died. 2) The "Different Life" of the Saved.
125. 1) Knocked Down and the Light Turned On. 2) Was There Really a Great Flood?
126. 1) The Father, Pleased With the Son. 2) The Mote and the Beam.
127. 1) How Will You Go Home From This Service? 2) Sins of Omissions.
128. 1) A Formula For the Peace of God. 2) Rejoice Always.
129. 1) The Empty Grave of Jesus. 2) The Shepherds of Bethlehem.
130. 1) Nicodemus and the Woman of Samaria. 2) Why Jesus Had to Go Through Samaria.
131. 1) Let's Have a Good Service. 2) The Gospel Addict, I Cor. 16:15.
132. 1) The Times of the Believer Are in the Hands of God. 2) A Strange Test for Soldiers, Jdg. 7:4-6.
133. 1) Bankrupt Sinners Freely Forgiveness. 2) Satan's Efforts Against the Atonement and the Believer's Defense Thereof.
134. 1) The Sovereign Saviour and the Suffering Saint. 2) Witnesses For Christ.
135. 1) The Substitutionary Character of the Atonement. 2) A Time to Keep Silence and a Time to Speak.
136. 1) Lessons From the Great Flood. 2) Job's Blessed Assurance.
137. 1) The Trinity in John 3:16. 2) God's Help, Our Only Help, II King 6:27.
138. 1) Benaiah, the Lion-hearted. 2) The Virgin Birth.
139. 1) Things Hard to be Understood, II Peter 3:16. 2) David Did Not Lose His Salvation, But...
140. 1) Drawing Near to the Lord in Disappointment. 2) Abounding in the Work of the Lord.
141. 1) The Law of Kindness in the Tongue. 2) Some consequences of the Everlasting Covenant.
143. 1) Tell it to Jesus. 2) The Lord Reigneth.
144. 1) Why Do Men Go To Hell? 2) Why Do Men Go To Heaven?
145. 1) The Father Who Slew His Son. 2) The Preacher, Windbag or Spirit-filled?
146. 1) A Place Called Calvary. 2) God Remembering His Covenant.
147. 1) The Difference That Counts. 2) The Lord Makes the Difference.
148. 1) The Deity of the Holy Spirit. 2) The Holy Spirit and the Word of God.
149. 1) Jesus Raising the Widow's Son. 2) The Ear, The Thumb, and the Toe Given to God.
150. 1) The Trinity. 2) The Personality of the Holy Spirit.
151. 1) The Eternal Sonship of Jesus Christ. 2) The Death of Two of David's Sons.
151. 1) The Exceedingly, Abundantly Able God. 2) A Godly Little Slave Girl.
153. 1) God's Curse on Meroz. 2) Good Night Down Here, But Good Morning Up There.
154. 1) A Man God Called a Fool. 2) The Parable of the Sower.
155. 1) The Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ. 2) The Holy Spirit and the Church I.
156. 1) The Holy Spirit and the Church II. 2) The Holy Spirit and the Believer.
157. 1) An Imaginary Trip Through an Arminian Heaven. 2) God's Pencil Has No Eraser.
158. 1) The Salvation of the Woman of Samaria. 2) God Was With Joseph.
159. 1) The Leading of the Spirit. 2) The Fruit of the Spirit.
160. 1) Felix, the Trembling Procrastinator. 2) Will There Be Any Rewards?
161. 1) Harps Hanging on the Willows. 2) The King's Son Shall Reign.
162. 1) Passing by on the Other Side, Luke 10:31-32. 2) A Life That Becomes the Gospel.
163. 1) A Baptized Believer on the Way to Hell. 2) Three Things That the Grace of God Does for One, Titus 2:11-13.
164. 1) Which do You Love: His Appearing or the World? II Tim. 4:8-10. 2) A Short, Simple, But Effective Prayer, "Lord Help Me" Matt. 15:25.
165. 1) Bible Directions For a Proper Home, Eph. 5:22-6:4. 2) Some Things Demonstrated and Proved by Calvary.
166. 1) Forgiveness, Once For All and Daily. 2) Safe and Peaceful Sleep, Psa. 3:5.
167. 1) How Old is Joe Wilson? 2) Some Results of Being Thankful.
168. 1) Paul and the Death of Stephen. 2) The Secret of a Great Life, I Sam. 3:10.
169. 1) Six Things No One Can Afford to be Without. 2) Prayer, and the Believer's Warfare.
70. 1) The Judgment Day. 2) I Am Not What I Used to be, Ought to be, Am Going to be.
171. 1) Barnabas, An Illustration of the Atonement. 2) "Till the Storm Passed By."
172. 1) Shut the Door, Matt. 6:6. 2) The Prayer Request of a Prisoner, Eph. 6:19, 20.
173. 1) Barnabas, a Good Man. 2) Some Resolutions for the New Year.
174. 1) If the Unsaved Only Knew, John 4:10. 2) The True Relationship Between Grace and Good Works.
175. 1) The Believer in a Storm. 2) The Unsaved May Have Much, the Saved Has Everything, Gen. 33:9, 11.
176. 1) Will You Die This Year? 2) If Jesus Should Come This Year.
177. 1) Flee Fornication I. 2) Arminianism and Prayer.
178. 1) God's Respect to Persons Illustrated. 2) Daniel, A Young Man With a Purpose.
179. 1) Flee Fornication II. 2) A Great Woman, II King 4:8.
180. 1) There Are Many Ways to Hell, But Only One Way to Heaven. 2) Manasseh.
181. 1) Aquila and Priscilla. 2) What to do When Hope Is Gone, Acts 27:25.
182. 1) The Heresies of Cain. 2) Let Someone Else Do It.
183. 1) How to Preach on Hell. 2) Let Jerusalem Come Into Your Mind.
184. 1) The Withering Work of the Holy Spirit. 2) The World's Hatred of God's People and God's Intervention in Their Behalf.
185. 1) A Request to Believers From a Man in Hell. 2) Three Things We Forget When We Murmur.
186. 1) Daniel in the Lion's Den. 2) The Story of Ruth.
187. 1) The Importance of Your Thought-Life. 2) Spiritual Understanding.
188. 1) Keep Troubling the Master. 2) Let Your Light So Shine.
189. 1) All For Nothing and Nothing For All. 2) All Scripture is Profitable.
190. 1) The Greatest of All Tragedies. 2) Black But Comely, S.S. 1:5.
191. 1) Sovereign Grace and the Free Invitation. 2) Herod, the Tetrarch.
192. 1) Stop Worrying. 2) The Sure Results of an Effectual Atonement.
193. 1) The Strong Hand and the Shepherd Heart. 2) Agrippa's Rejection of the Gospel.
194. 1) Why Preach the Gospel? 2) Dorcas, Full of Good Works.
195. 1) Monergism or Synergism. 2) Why Do Arminians and Holy Rollers Take Credit They Do Not Deserve? Prov. 20:9.
96. 1) A Wonderful Name and What It Means. 2) David's Great Sin.
197. 1) My Son, Give Me Thine Heart. 2) How to Go To Church.
198. 1) The Sufficiency of God's Word For Salvation. 2) Jezebel.
199. 1) The Meanest Grandmother in the Bible. 2) Sihon, The Reprobate.
200. 1) Contending For the Faith. 2) A Full Reward.
201. 1) Strange Fire, No Fire, God's Fire. 2) The Worm Threshing the Mountain.
202. 1) Why I Believe in the Old Fashioned Gospel. 2) The Silence of God.
203. 1) Thank God for Election. 2) Blessings on the Mount of Cursing.
204. 1) The Faith of Devils. 2) The Place of Men and Women in the Church.
205. 1) The Saving Work of the Triune God. 2) Hannah, a Godly Woman.
206. 1) The Fear of Man or Trust in the Lord. 2) The Opened Eyes and the Well of Water.
207. 1) Reprobation I. 2) Reprobation II.
208. 1) David and Goliath. 2) Saul.
209. 1) Look, and Look Again. 2) Zeal for God's House.
210. 1) The Story of a Great Storm. 2) The Weeping Backslider.
211. 1) The Prosperity of the Soul. 2) God's Cut-worms.
212. 1) The Gathering of the Redeemed. 2) Sin Predestinated and the Sinner Condemned.
213. 1) Heaven. 2) The Melchisedec Priesthood of Christ.
214. 1) Portraits From Philemon. 2) The Angel of the Lord.
215. 1) The Will of Man and the Salvation of the Lord. 2) The Love of Christ For His People, John 13:1.
216. 1) God Hath Saved Us, II Tim. 1:9. 2) In Hope of Eternal Life, Titus 1:2.
217. 1) The King of Terrors, Job 18:14; 2) Jacob and Bethel, Gen. 35:1-15.
218. 1) Why God Has Delivered Us., Jer. 7:10. 2) The Peculiar Blessings of the Chosen Ones, Psa. 65:4.
219. 1) When God is as a Stranger. 2) The Manifold Grace of God.
220. 1) The Proper Behavior of Husband and Wife. 2) Double Predestination.
221. 1) Seeing Jesus in our Services. 2) God and the Death of Christ.

We have tapes available of many sermons by John R. Gilpin. Truly, he was one of God's mighty men. We sell these tapes for \$1.50 each. Order some today.

APPRECIATED LETTERS

Dear Sir, Enclosed is a check for the Baptist Examiner. I am not a Christian, but I like to read your paper.

J.P. Brewington
Clinton, N.C.

Editor's Note: This is an unusual letter. We are praying for this man's salvation. Will you join us?

Dear Brother Wilson, Greetings in the name of our blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ. Sorry that I haven't written sooner... I am in great pain... I need many prayers... I know that with our Lord's help I can keep on until He calls me home.

(Continued on Page 12 Column 1)

TUNE IN TO THE CALL TO CALVARY

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

LETTERS

(Continued from Page 11)

We want you to know that we had a wonderful blessing having you visit our home and pray you will come again... May our Lord be with you and yours in doing His work. Please find enclosed three checks. Yours in His Name,

Ray & Dorothy Archer
Pacific, Mo.

Editor's Note: It was a great blessing to my soul to visit with these fine Christian people recently. It made me want to do a much better job in my service for the Lord.

Dear Brother Joe, Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Baptist Examiner has meant very much to me, and I shall try to write more articles for it. I feel so unprepared in this matter; but if God will help me, I will try.

Chester Powell
Burghill, Ohio

The Baptist Examiner, I am enclosing a check for the paper. I love to read those sermons. Send the rest to Fred or Peter Halliman. May God bless your work.

Grace Moore
McLouth, Kansas

Dear Friends in Christ, The Baptist Examiner continues to be a real blessing to our family... Please send the paper to a nephew of mine. He accepts the doctrines of grace, but has no such church close enough to attend.

Mrs. J.P. Morgan

Dear Brother Wilson, We wrote you recently about getting subscriptions to the Baptist Examiner for some people out here... We enjoy this paper so much and look forward to each copy. We have been taught the same truths that are in your paper. There is not much of God's true Word taught today. There is so much heresy, and many people are following the broad way that leads to destruction. There is not true Baptist church in this town. It is so sad to visit the so-called Baptist Churches here and see the need of truth being taught. We pray that by getting this paper to some of these people, God would bless and they would be able to see the difference; and we pray that God would bless Brownwood, Texas with a true Baptist Church. We ask you to pray about this. Yours in Jesus Christ.

John and Janell Welch
Brownwood, Tex.

CHRIST'S REIGN IS FOREVER

by Kirby Hill
Pastor, Jones Prairie
Baptist Church

"I will overturn, overturn, overturn it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him" (Ezekiel 21:27).

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
OCT. 5, 1985
PAGE TWELVE

God has given a Universal Kingdom to Christ

It is basic to the Christian faith that Christ is the Lord of all. He reigns supreme. There is no competitor to His throne. He is absolutely all powerful and unthreatened in His supremacy.

This is the teaching of the entire Bible. On every page of the Sacred Text we find the Sovereign Christ. In Genesis He is the "seed of the woman" that crushes the serpent's head. In Psalms He is the "Good Shepherd" who reigns over his flock. In Revelation He is the "Alpha and Omega," the "bright and morning star," the "triumphant king." Indisputably, the Sovereign Christ is the theme of the Bible.

In particular, Christ's reign over His creation is the central idea of the prophetic Scriptures. I'll point to one example of how this is so. The prophet Daniel had a vast panoramic vision of all of human history. He saw a huge statue of a man. The head was made of gold, its chest and arms were of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze. Its legs were of iron and its feet were a mixture of iron and clay. Later, Daniel interprets the vision. The head is the ancient Babylonian empire. The chest is Medo-Persia. The stomach and thighs were ancient Greece and the iron calves are ancient Rome. The iron and clay feet are the revived Roman Empire in the latter days.

Then Daniel says an amazing thing. A huge stone came out of heaven and crushed the statue. This means that Christ, the Solid Rock, will crush the nations and set up His Kingdom. Then will be fulfilled what was spoken by the Apostle John, "...the kingdoms of this world are become a kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever" (Rev. 11:15).

God will ruin every power that stands in the way of His Kingdom.

There is no enemy that can stand against our King. The Father has sworn that He will overthrow anyone or anything that gets in the way of the Kingdom of Christ. On the cross, Christ faced an enemy that we all face — death.

If I were to take you to Westminster Abbey in London, England, I could show you the graves of some of the greatest men who have ever lived. William Shakespeare, Sir Walter Scott, Sir Thomas Moore, and William Wordsworth are all buried there. They have these plaques on the tombs that read "Here lies the body of..."

Now, we could go to the tomb of Christ. There is no plaque that says "Here lies the body of Jesus of Nazareth." He conquered death. God will overturn every enemy that stands in the way of His Son.

The embalmed remains of Lenin lie in a crystal casket in a tomb in Red Square in Moscow. On the casket it says: "He was the greatest leader of all peoples, of all countries, of all times. He was the Lord of the new humanity. He was the saviour of the world."

Did you catch the significance of those words? It is all in the past tense. He was, He was, He

was. But Christ says of Himself, "I am He that lives... I am alive forever more."

There is nothing that can stand in the way of our God and our Saviour. Not death, not the power of Hell, not even the political empire of the world can prevent His reign. And the church of God still sings the triumphant song of the Apostle John, "even so, come Lord Jesus."

Copied

PORNOGRAPHY

By Medford Caudill
Goshen, Indiana

As another writer once lamented, "It is difficult to write about pornography without being pornographic." There is even today much Christian literature that is in essence pornography. Look at many of the popular Christian marriage manuals and you will read graphic descriptions of the sex act that forty years ago would have had to be purchased under the counter from a sleaze dealer. This downgrade of Christian literature has occurred because of the culture we live in today. The average American is immersed in various forms of pornography. Television is in large part pornographic. Radio, especially rock and roll stations, is pornographic. The evening newspaper even gets in on the act.

You are physically what you eat. You are mentally what you read and observe. The constant ingestion of pornography in all its forms infects you mentally. Pornography, like drug addiction, is progressive. That which for a time titillates soon loses its feeling. Something stronger is needed, then something still stronger until the end result is a savage addiction to lust with all of its consequences.

"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof" (Romans 6:12).

The Christian ought to have nothing to do with pornography. He ought not to see it, read it, or listen to it. He ought not to go to movies with a sexual theme whether they are rated X or G. He ought not to watch television programs of the same nature, especially those that have half naked young ladies parading across the screen every few minutes. A good rule for Christian parents is to not let their children (or themselves) watch any program where the people are dressed in ways they would not let their children dress. The Christian ought not to listen to the awfully pornographic modern day rock and roll or country music. In some ways modern country music is worse than modern rock and roll. At least in some of the rock and roll music they are screaming (they usually don't sing, just scream) so incoherently that you can't understand the words. With country music you can understand the words and ninety percent of it is pornographic.

There is nothing wrong with laws against pornography. The smut peddlers cry out long and loud about freedom of speech and censorship. There is nothing necessarily wrong with censorship. Every community in our nation has laws regulating open sewers and cesspools. The reasoning behind those laws is that open sewers will make you sick. The open distribution of

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Jim Mills is available for preaching wherever the Lord might open the door. He would like to pastor some sound Sovereign Grace Landmark Missionary Baptist Church. He believes the truths we teach in The Baptist Examiner and is an able preacher. You can contact him at the following address. In care of Edmund Dempsey, 515 N. Gilmer Park, Johnson City, Tenn. 37601.

Keith Worrell of Taylor, Michigan is available for preaching wherever the Lord might open the door. He has been assisting Jon Rule for some time. Brother Worrell informs me that he is in agreement with the doctrines taught in The Baptist Examiner. He is desirous of pastoring a church. He is married and has one child. You may contact him at 25724 Champaign St., Taylor, MI 48180.

We have many of brother Gilpin's sermons on cassette tapes. These may be purchased for \$1.50 per tape. Brother Gilpin was truly a great preacher. When will we see his likes again? These sermons would be a blessing to you.

The Solid Rock Baptist Mission invites you to come hear Elder Hubert Sapp teach prophecy from the book of Revelation. Services will be nightly at 7:30, beginning September 23rd through the 28th. The Mission is an authorized work of the Pleasant Plains Baptist Church, Pleasant Plains, Ill., and is located at 3rd and Reservoir in Central City, Ky. Freeman Lacefield is the mission pastor.

pornography harms many more people than an open cesspool. Ask the child whose mom and dad got divorced because their lust for others was ignited and excited by pornography. Ask the child who has been sexually abused because of pornography. Almost all child molesters are pornography addicts. Ask the woman who has been raped, since almost all rapists are also pornography addicts. Ask the young person who has acquired gonorrhea, syphilis, or AIDS because pornography incited him to do something he shouldn't have done. Every community ought to have laws banning the sale of pornography.

The viewing of pornography is forbidden by the seventh commandment. "Thou shalt not commit adultery." (Exodus 20:14) Jesus said that "whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:28).

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

SCARS

"You'll have a scar," My Mamma said,
"From the scratch upon your knee."
Indeed I knew not one could last
Through the years to eternity.

This little girl returning home
After playing with a friend,
Was given a scar to help her know,
In Christ, love has no end.

When shadows of the evening fell
Along the lonely road
I heard a car around the bend,
So I hurried to my abode.

Not many cars 'ere came that way
Nor drivers of another race,
He knew the terror within my heart
By the look upon my face.

"I won't hurt you," he kindly said
As through a fence I came,
More quickly to arrive at home
And suddenly I felt pain.

I was ashamed that I had run
But this we often do,
The lesson taught by the scratch
Indeed was nothing new.

I learned not to be afraid
Though fearful we are prone,
And though the world with Devils filled,
He careth for His own.

There is a story of greater scars
Of nail prints in the hands,
Of Christ the Lord, the Holy One,
Fulfilling loves demands.

"Was it for me?" My soul cries out,
"Did Jesus die for me?"
This quest He gives to those He saves,
And affirms "I died for thee."

I bow my head in thanks to Him,
I know no greater love,
His praise I'll sing and story tell
Till I see His scars above.

Mrs. J.P. Morgan
Charleston, W. Va.