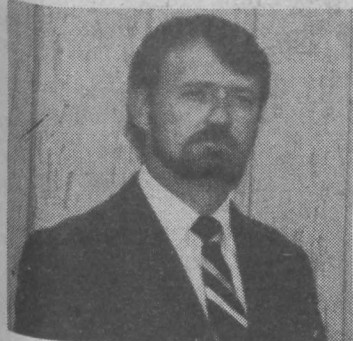


URGENCY

by Bob Belanger
704 Liberty Hall Rd.
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"And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place: for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law. And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed



Bob Belanger

in the iniquity of the city. And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and

(Continued on Page 3 Column 2)

ARE MODERN DAY CHRISTIANS COWARDS?

by Doug Newell
Asst. Editor

II Chronicles 32:7, "Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him: for there be more with us than with him."

Hezekiah makes a remarkable statement in the next verse when he tells the people, "With him is an arm of flesh: but with us is the LORD our God to help us." Hezekiah tells the people not to fear because the Lord is on their side. Christians therefore should



Doug Newell

not be afraid of men and what they will do because the Lord is on our side. The title of this article is "Are Modern Day Christians Cowards?" I think this is a question that we all need to consider and answer for ourselves. Of all people on this earth, Christians should have more courage than others. Those that have no hope are the ones who ought to be afraid. The Christians who has God on his side should dwell in boldness and put all fears behind him. This should be the case, but in many instances it is not. In many cases the child of God lives in fear. In this article we will consider how the modern day Christian is a coward.

The first thing that comes to

(Continued on Page 5 Column 5)

Character is what a man is while on his vacation.

GOSPEL PREACHING COMMANDED

by A.W. Pink
(Now In Glory)

There are those who misrepresent the doctrine of election in this way. Here I am sitting down at my table tonight with my family to tea. It is a cold winter's night, and outside on the street are some hungry starving tramps and children, and they come and knock on my door and they say, "We are so hungry. Sir, Oh, we are so hungry and cold, and we are starving: won't you give us something to eat?" "Give you something to eat? No, you do not belong here, get off with you." Now people say that is what election means, that God has spread the gospel feast and some poor sinners conscious of

(Continued on Page 8 Column 4)

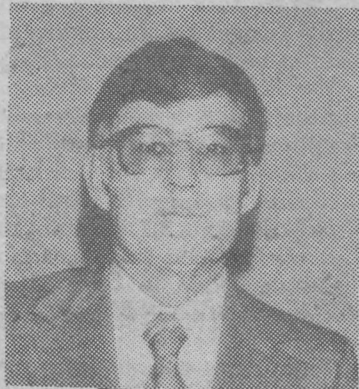
TO BE LOST

by Ray Brown
Box 203

Cannelton, W. Va. 25036

Text: II Corinthians, Chapter 4, Verses 3-6.

We are going to study what a terrible thing it is to be lost. II



Ray Brown

Corinthians, Chapter 4, Verses 3-6: "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

(Continued on Page 10 Column 3)

300,000 SILENT STAND IN THE GATE

by Robert McCurry

Isaiah the prophet came on the scene in the year that King Uzziah died.

The reign of Uzziah began well and was marked with much success and prosperity until he became "strong and his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the Lord." His arrogant pride soon caused him to assume a carte blanche authority that extended to the priest and the ministry of the people. "He went into the temple to burn incense." His stubborn refusal to acknowledge and repent of this wicked sin when rebuked by Azariah the priest resulted in his being stricken by the Lord with leprosy. "And Uzziah the king was a leper until the day of his death." (Read II Chronicles

(Continued on Page 9 Column 3)

by Velmer Paler
The Philippines

My message is found in Jeremiah 7:1-2. It is my prayer the Lord will prepare your hearts as you carefully read these verses. We read: "The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear



Velmer Paler

the word of the LORD all ye of Judah, that enter in at these gates to worship the LORD." I want you to note the words "stand in the gate."

In Jeremiah's day, the Israelites forsook the service of the Lord and ignored Him, even at their worship in the temple. He was neglected. So God heed-

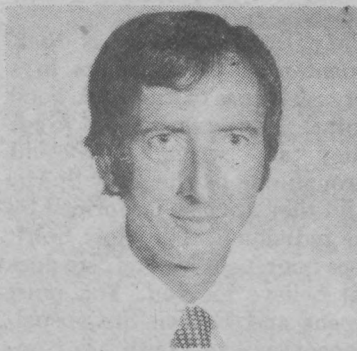
(Continued on Page 7 Column 1)

YOU MUST BE WASHED TO GO TO HEAVEN

by Ron Boswell
Rt. 1, Box 495,
Smithburg, MD 21783

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed..." (I Corinthians 6:9-11).

I have been reading to you a



Ron Boswell

list of individuals whom God says will not go to heaven. This is sad indeed, for if we were honest, we could find our name somewhere in this list. Then we find that God made an exception of some in that they were washed. Some, though as guilty as the others, will go to heaven by virtue of being washed. We can clearly see that in order to go to heaven, you must be washed.

As I thought of this passage of Scripture, several incidents came to my mind. I remembered when I was in England that they were having a Memorial Day Service in the town center. They laid some flowers at the statue of a soldier

(Continued on Page 7 Column 5)

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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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INDIVIDUAL EVANGELISM

by J.W. Porter
(Now In Glory)

"He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ" (John 1:41).

For several decades past, emphasis has been laid upon salvation by the wholesale. Fortunately, the trend is now to individual evangelism. And while there is a place, and a great place, for the professional evangelist with sound doctrine and sane methods, much of professional evangelism has been rightly discredited. As this type of evangelism has grown in disfavor, in like proportion has personal evangelism increased

in favor, apparently, with God, and certainly with man. To the shame of many modern evangelists, it must be said, they have made religion a joke and cheapened Christ in the eyes of the world. These men and their methods are being more and more discounted and discredited. Christendom can congratulate itself that there is promised a speedy return to the means and methods of New Testament evangelism.

The individual plan was used exclusively by the Lord Jesus. Christ, so far as the inspired record goes, never held a revival. It is true, He preached to five thousand, but far more frequently to one. The woman at the well, Zacchaeus,

Nicodemus, and the dying thief, are characteristic examples of His methods and ministry. Christ might be correctly termed a conversational evangelist. Think what it would mean to mankind should every Christian make Christ the chief topic of conversation. There is no record of any sermon ever preached by Andrew, but he led Peter to the Lord, and he spoke through Peter at Pentecost. The Pentecostal preacher is essential to Pentecost, and usually the result of individual effort. The "upper room" and the personal word is far more needed than the great auditorium and mechanical methods. Mr. Moody once said that he has

(Continued on Page 6 Column 3)

The Baptist Examiner Pulpit

A Sermon by Pastor Joseph M. Wilson

CAN ONE GO TO HEAVEN WITHOUT GOOD WORKS?

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph 2:8-10). One is an accomplished theologian who believes rightly about good works. To be wrong in one direction, to believe that works have to do with one's being saved, makes one a legalist. To be wrong in another direction, to believe that works have no place at all, is to be an antinomian. Either error is exceedingly dangerous to the souls of men

and highly dishonoring unto the Lord. It is the purpose of this article to teach some of the truth about good works. Note again the question of my subject. Be careful, give the matter some thought before you answer this question.

I wish to give two exceptions to the answer I will be giving in this article to this question. The first relates to those dying in infancy. I believe that all who die in infancy (I set no age of accountability) belong to the election of grace, and are saved in their dying moment by the grace and power of God. The second exception would relate to those who are saved in the very moment of dying, if there be such,

and I do not question the possibility that there are such. Please remember during this article that I have made these two exceptions.

Note exactly what the question of this article is. It is not, "Do works have anything to do with salvation?" The answer to that question must always be a very emphatic "no." Works have nothing to do with being saved nor with staying saved. Man is saved solely, only, totally, and eternally by the free and sovereign grace of God. The question is, "Can one go to heaven without good works?" The question might be expounded and even answered by

(Continued on Page 2 Column 1)

Live your best, and act your best, and think your best each day, for there may be no tomorrows.

The Baptist Examiner

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GOOD WORKS

(Continued from Page 1)

rephrasing it thus, "Is a man truly saved who has no good works?"

With the above noted exceptions, and with the explanation of the question as to what it really is; my answer is a most emphatic "no". A man cannot go to heaven without good works. Now please stay with me awhile. Listen to my arguments, give thought to what I say before you brand me as an Arminian, works for salvation, heretic. I will give several arguments to support my answer to this question.

My first argument is that, repentance and faith, are in a very real sense of the word, good works. They are gifts of God. They are wrought in and through one by the Holy Spirit. Still, they are also performed by the individual. The Holy Spirit does not repent for you. He does not believe for you. You must repent and believe the gospel. Repentance and faith are commanded by God. That which is done in obedience to God's command, in a sense, is a good work. The act of saving faith is frequently referred to as the "obedience of faith." As the gospel is a promise, the saving response is "faith." As the gospel is a command, and it is, the saving response is "obedience." So we can say that, in a sense, repentance and faith are good works. Please note in this connection John 6:29. "...This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent."

My second argument is that faith without works is dead and cannot save. In James 2:14-26 we learn much about the

uselessness of a professed faith that is not accompanied by works. In vs. 17, 20, and 26 we are told that faith without works is dead. This whole portion of Scripture is designed by the Holy Spirit to support my position (it is the Scriptural position) that one who does not have good works is not a saved person, and that one cannot go to heaven without good works. Some foolish commentators have assumed that James is in conflict with Paul on this subject. This is not true, James is as inspired in what he writes as is Paul. They both set forth God's truth. And a careful study of Paul and James on justification reveals that there is no conflict at all between them. Since faith without works is dead and cannot save, it follows of necessity that one who does not have good works is not saved.

My third argument comes from Ephesians 2:10 which is part of my text for this message. God has foreordained (predestinated) that those who are saved by grace should walk in good works. Now, do we believe in predestination? We say, of course we do. Yes, we believe that God unconditionally and sovereignly chose some



Joe Wilson

from among fallen mankind and ordained them to be the recipients of saving grace. We preach this frequently. But my text tells us something else about predestination. It tells us that saved people are predestinated to do good works. Do we believe and preach this part of predestination? Now, if saved people are predestinated to do good works, and they are; then those who do not do good works are not saved. The elect of God are predestinated to repent and believe the gospel. If one does not do these things, that one is not saved. We agree with this. We agree that repentance and faith are essential evidences of election. Well, my friend, good works are also predestinated of the saved. A man who does not do good works gives evidence that he is not saved and is not on the way to heaven.

My fourth argument is that the new birth produces a compelling desire to do good works, and includes a God given ability for doing such. We must never forget that the salvation experience is a new birth experience. Salvation is not just saying (maybe really thinking) that one is trusting Jesus for salvation from hell, and that nothing else is involved. Real, saving faith is wrought in the heart by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit. One who is born again becomes, thereby, a new creature in Jesus Christ. He has new desires. He loves things he used to hate or at least be indifferent to. He hates things he used to love. Even when he sins, it is that abominable thing that he hates doing. My friend, if you do not have a new nature with new desires, new thoughts, and new activities; you are not a

saved person. God's salvation does not leave a man in the same condition in which it finds him. Salvation makes a difference in a person. These multitudes of people who go to the front in a church service, make a profession, join the church; and then go on living just as they always have — these have not yet been saved. To teach that a man can go to heaven without good works is to deny the reality of the new birth experience.

My fifth argument is from Matthew 1:21, a great verse of Scripture, "...thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." He saves us "from" not "in" our sins. He saves us from the guilt of sin in forgiveness and justification. He saves us from the power or sin in sanctification. He saves us from the presence of sin in glorification. To teach that a person can go to heaven without good works is to deny the very meaning of the precious name of Jesus; and to deny the reality of the salvation that He provides for His people.

My sixth argument is taken from Galatians 5:6, "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, Nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love." Salvation is by faith. Of course it is. Nothing I have said in this article is to the contrary. But the faith that saves produces a love for God in the heart of the saved, and this love motivates the saved one to do good works. A faith that does not work will not avail for salvation any more than will circumcision, or any other work of man. Man cannot be saved by works. Neither can he be saved by a faith that does not work.

My seventh argument is taken from Philippians 1:6, "...he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." Salvation is not a work that the Holy Spirit performs at the moment of salvation — then the Holy Spirit leaves that one alone for the rest of his life — then at the moment of death the Holy Spirit takes that one to heaven. No! No! The Holy Spirit continues working every day in the life of the saved individual. He begins this good work, and He continues it day by day until the coming of the Lord when the work is completed in glorification. To teach that one can go to heaven without good works is to deny the reality of the working of the Holy Spirit in the saved individual.

Next I want to point out that regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification all go together in the totality of salvation. In regeneration the Holy Spirit gives spiritual life and a new nature with new desires. In justification the Holy Spirit gives a new standing, one of absolute perfection, before the Lord. In sanctification the Holy Spirit works day by day, conforming the saved one more and more to the image of Jesus Christ. In glorification the salvation experience is consummated, and the individual is perfectly conformed to Jesus Christ. Sanctification is the consequent of regeneration, and is the prelude to glorification. The one who is justified will be sanctified. The one who is glorified has been sanctified. Sanctification is as real a part of salvation as is justification, regeneration, and glorification. He who teaches that one can go to heaven without good works denies the Biblical doctrine of sanctification.

I want to point out that observation bears witness to the truth of my doctrine in this article. Let us travel down the road of our past history. Let us think of the children of God we have known and do know. Is it not

true that we see good works in their lives? Is it not true that when we see no good works, we question the reality of one's profession? We all know many dear Christians who have been a

(Continued on Page 3 Column 1)

FROM THE EDITOR

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Eph. 4:32).

This verse ought to describe the attitude and activity of every child of God toward other children of God. It is sad that this is not the case. There is great hurt among God's children because this is not true. The Holy Spirit is grieved, and we do not experience the fullness of His ministry in our churches because this is not true. Our testimony and influence before the unsaved world is severely damaged because this is not true.

In the main, the days of physical persecution are not upon God's children at the present time. Surely, God's children would not take part in a physical persecution of other children of God. I think we can safely say that there would be little if any, of this.

But, now I have a sad story to tell. Though God's children are not often physically persecuted today, they are hurt in many other ways. There are hurts to the heart and soul that do not involve physical hurt. Often these hurt worse than the physical. Who among us has not been hurt in this way? God's children are greatly hurt today by lies, slanders, misrepresentation, gossip, and many other things.

Let me illustrate by a few cases from personal experience. Some years ago it was told that I baptized some people in a place and at a time that was designed to greatly embarrass and hurt a group of people. The truth is that I baptized these people in a different place and on a different day from that which was told. I had never even thought of doing that of which I was accused. This falsehood was told on me, it was spread abroad by many who heard it, and it caused me great damage. Over a year later, a brother told me that the thing that had turned the tide against me in a grievous situation, and the thing that he had wondered so much about, was my doing what had been told. I told him that I never did, or even thought of doing such a thing. Yet, this was told on me, many who heard it held it against me and told others about it; yet not one of them asked me about the matter.

It was told on me that I had received a certain man into my church whom I knew was excluded, and that I sent him to another church of which he became pastor. There was not a word of truth in this story. I repeatedly told others that this was not true. Yet, this was believed, spread abroad, and caused me great hurt. Many who believed it and told it never once bothered to ask me about the truthfulness of the matter.

Once, I received what I felt to be the heaviest single hurt of my entire ministry. The truth of the whole matter was not totally set forth, and I was not given any opportunity to defend myself.

I was at a Bible conference one time. Two women gave me the worse "ice box" treatment I ever received, or at least as bad as I had ever experienced. This hurt me so badly that I nearly cried all the way home the first night, and lost sleep over it that night. Oh, it does hurt to receive a cold heart and a cold shoulder from other children of God. I could go on and on giving examples from my experience, but I give these as examples of what I am trying to say in this editorial.

Now to the saddest part of what I am trying to say. I have been hurt more by children of God during my ministry than I ever have by the unsaved of the world. Isn't that an awful thing to be able to say? But it is true. Since I have been in the ministry, I have received little persecution in the forms mentioned from the unsaved. I have received little hurt from the unsaved. I do not know a time just now when I have been lied about, misrepresented, slandered, etc. by the unsaved about me. I have been treated coolly by some, but this was as I sought to witness to them about the Lord Jesus Christ. But I have never received the harsh treatment from the unsaved that I have from the children of God. Oh, isn't that an awful thing to say; yet, it is true.

Now, a further sadness to this sad part. I have had more trouble from our kind of people than from others. I have little trouble with the Arminians and universal church heretics. But, frequently I have been hurt, misrepresented, lied about, etc., from our kind of Baptist people. This is a terrible thing to have to say, but it surely has been true in my experience.

Now, read my text again and compare it with what I have just written. Look at another Scripture, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35). Here, Jesus gives us an identifying badge to wear to show others that we are truly the children of God. This badge is the manifestation of our love for one another. How sad it is that we often do not show this badge. I have read somewhere that it was said of the early Christians, "Behold, how they love one another." Brother and sister, could this be said of us today?

Listen to another Scripture, For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another" (Gal. 5:14-15). Brothers and sisters, are we going to start showing a real love for one another, or are we going to devour one another?

I say again that I have been hurt (badly and agonizingly hurt) more by Christians than I ever have by the unsaved, and I have been hurt more by our kind of Christians than by those who greatly differ with us. Oh, this is so hard to say. This is so sad. But this is true.

Surely, one of our greatest needs is to have a manifest true God-given love for one another. Let us all confess our sins in this matter. Let us all seek victory over the attitudes that lead us to hurt one another. Let us all seek to have and show more love in our dealings with one another. Who, but God, knows what great good might result from this? God bless you all.

GOOD WORKS

(Continued from Page 2)

blessing to us through the good works of their lives. Without good works, we do not accept one's pretence of salvation.

Next, I point to our personal experience. None of us will brag of our good works. None of us are satisfied with our works. We all bemoan our many failures in our Christian lives. We all confess our sins to the Lord. Still, with all this, we are aware that the saving work of the Holy Spirit has made a difference within us. We are all aware of some good works that have been wrought in and through us by the Holy Spirit. We rejoice in the desire and ability God has given us to do good works. To say that one can go to heaven without good works is to deny the reality of one's own experience of the saving grace of God.

My eighth argument is taken from the Biblical doctrine of perseverance. This is a Biblical doctrine. It is the fifth point of the celebrated tulip of the doctrines of grace, though most of our preachers preach this fifth point as eternal security rather than perseverance. Our forefathers spoke much of perseverance. We, their children, rarely speak of this Biblical truth. I fear that sometimes our over emphasis on eternal security - coupled with or neglect of perseverance - does great harm to the cause of Christ, and promotes and encourages sin. The Bible teaches this doctrine of perseverance very prominently. "The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger" (Job 17:9). This is as true as John 10:27, but how often do we hear this preached?

The man who does not hold on his way is not a righteous, is not a saved, man. "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day" (Prov. 4:18). Is this true, or is it false? Then why do we not preach it more than we do? "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us" (1 John 2:19). Those who make a profession, then continue in or return to a life of sin - they are not saved people who lose salvation - they give proof that they were never yet saved. Those who believe and teach that one can go to heaven without good works deny, yea subvert and pervert, the Biblical doctrine of perseverance.

Now I ask a question, would a saved person want it any other way? Do we really desire that God save a sinner, let him live the rest of his life without any good works, and take him to heaven at death? Our very soul rebels in horror at such a doctrine. We do not believe such an unholy, God-dishonoring doctrine as this. We know our God too well. We cannot believe that the thrice holy God of the Bible would act in such a way. No, we do not desire, we do not believe in, a salvation that does not produce good works.

Any other teaching than that given in this article would be highly dishonoring to God, and degrading to the whole subject of salvation. To teach that men go to heaven without good works does not do honor to the

grace of God - it disgraces that grace and turns the grace of God into licentiousness. It is the glory of the grace of God that He saves men in a way consistent with His holiness - that He saves men from sin, and gives them the desire and ability to glorify Him by good works.

Now, let me examine myself by this doctrine. A truly saved person is willing and happy to submit to this test. Am I truly a saved person? Well, has the Spirit made me a new creature? Do I desire to live a life that will glorify the Lord? Do I desire to do good works? Do I delight in, do I find my chief joy in, obeying the law of God. Is it a grief to my heart when I fall into sin? Is it sweet to my soul when I walk in the ways of the Lord? Willingly and gladly do I submit to this examination. I rejoice as these evidences of true salvation in my life, and I praise God for them.

If I fail to pass this test - oh, let me take this test, I need to know the truth of the matter - if I fail the test, let me repent of my sins and truly trust Jesus Christ for salvation. My failure to pass this test reveals that I have not yet been truly saved. It is far better to know this now, than to learn it at the great white throne judgment.

I am nearly done. I have written an important article. We need to know the truth about good works. Men have greatly dishonored the Lord and deceived the souls of multitudes by not preaching the truth about good works. Let us magnify the grace of God. Let us attribute the totality of salvation to the grace of God. But let us not disgrace God's grace, dishonor God's holiness, and deceive the souls of men by failing to preach the truth about good works. May God bless you all. Comments welcomed.

URGENCY

(Continued from Page 1)

set him without the city." (Gen. 19:14-16)

Our text is found in the words, "And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot."

There has always been much debate among so called religious circles, as to whether or not the two beings mentioned here in verse 15 were angels or divine persons of God. Personally I believe that these two personages were indeed angels, and that the third that remained behind with Abraham was the Angel of the Lord, even the Lord Jesus Christ. But to delve into and discuss such matters does not serve as a proper message to what we are being shown here, and that is, that these two angels were messengers from God, with a particular message; a message of certain doom about to befall Sodom, and a message of sure deliverance. The angels are our attraction today for they teach us examples on "how to serve". They teach us many and good lessons. How we are to deal with our fellow man if we desire to arouse them to their terrible conditions before God. Yea, that lost, undone, perishing condition!

These messengers of God, first of all, came bearing a particular message, but with that message, did not "cast their pearls before the swine" as it were, for their method was not of doctrinal discussion. First, they waited with wisdom to see

the sincerity of Lot's invitation, and then proceeded about their Master's business. Notice verse 2. Lot invites them into his home, but they said, "Nay; but we will abide in the street all night." And in verse 3, "And he (Lot) pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in to him." Here we see the great sincerity of Lot which was looked for by the messengers of God. One thing most people look for in the child of God, in the Christian, is sincerity. The message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is seldom heard by the lost who see no sincerity in the life or the living of the witness. Words are seldom good without actions. By example, it has often been said, and we surely believe, that the words "I love you" mean nothing without outward proof! Surely the Lord Jesus Christ showed the fullest example of true love, by action and deed, and not just words. The question is asked; "If the world would examine us as Christians for sincerity in the Lord's work, would it be found?" Then we, as the saved of the Lord must likewise look for sincerity in those to whom we speak. Do they show an interest? Do their actions portray their words? Do we observe a ground prepared of the Lord? Do we observe in those to whom we speak, a conviction and sense of grief of sin? An observance of this conviction is often avoided by many a so-called preacher who is anxious for members to be added to his church, caring not if they are genuinely saved.

Beloved, when men seek the favor of one another, the first thing that is looked for is sincerity. Likewise, anyone who has ever sought employment knows that sincerity will play a large part in landing the job. The child of God then must use wisdom also, even as the world, especially in the handling of the Word of God. Our Lord declared in Matthew 10:16: "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." We have indeed been delivered out of, and from among, a pack of wolves, so to speak. "Be... wise... and harmless."

Now after sure sincerity has been determined, what's next? Verse 3 states that the angels "turned in unto him." That is, they looked for the "opened door" and went through. The door of opportunity, as it were, the door of advantage had been opened and the messengers of God, stepped in. By His grace, we have seen times of great blessing in sitting with families, going over the Word of God with thirsty souls, taking advantage of that opened door.

The next approach that these messengers of God used for our example is, that they stated their case. They made known to Lot the reason for their arrival, that is, why they came. But they did not put parsley around the potatoes. They didn't try flashy or fleshly gimmicks and inform Lot that they had "a puppet or bus ministry down at the church". They didn't tell Lot that their pastor had a five doctorate degrees in theology. They didn't tell Lot about their nursery and day care center, or that they had Billy Graham's latest film show in the church. They didn't tell Lot about their five million dollar church building with double thick carpet, fine seats and beautiful windows. They stated their case point blank without ornaments. Notice Genesis 19:13: "For we

will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it."

The Gospel is indeed the "glad tidings", but to the unrepentant and untouched it is not seen as good news. Why? Beloved, all of mankind abides in the "city of destruction" for "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Doom surely awaits the unrepentant, and the time grows shorter and shorter for mankind as "seducers wax worse and worse." The message of God's messengers has always been the same. Always a message of urgency, a message of persuasion. Lot had received the message and went forth with great urgency. Verse 14, "Up, get you out of this place: for the LORD will destroy this city." A sense of urgency in carrying forth the Gospel is indeed highly commendable, yet Lot, as with many of us, denied his message by his lifestyle; a life that betrayed any sincerity he may truly have had, for we read that as Lot preached these urgent words, verse 14 declares that Lot "seemed as one that mocked." Verse 16 adds; that he himself "lingered." Perhaps he was lingering in wait for his loved ones to join him, or lingered because he loved the glory of the city, but in any event, the Lord has determined a set time for all things and will not stay His wrath a moment longer for those who spend a lifetime in disbelief.

Some time ago, I received word of the death of a man I had worked alongside of. He had come to work that day, perhaps following his usual schedule. But while he sat conversing with another, death suddenly and instantly seized him, taking him on to his just reward. Yea, now knowing what it means to mock and disbelieve the messengers of God. But here in our text is a sad case in the life of the child of God. In Lot it was necessary that the messengers of God resort to loving violence - on Lot's behalf that he might be saved from the destruction and wrath of God. Genesis 19:16, "And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city."

Behold the messengers of God, zealous and busy for their Lord. Oh where would we be this hour, if the Lord had not sent his messengers that we should be saved from wrath? If He had not laid hold upon our hearts and set us apart from the world that we might be saved? Observe beloved, see how occupied, how occupied, the hands of God's messengers were in serving their Lord. Here is a message in itself. The lesson of occupation. The lesson of working hands! Hand's of God's messengers. In what is our time occupied?

There is, however, another aspect here we need to observe concerning Lot, and that is that he was already saved before the deliverance of the angels; yet, he needed to be hastened. It is a sad testimony, but nevertheless true; it is here for our example, an example to the child of God. It tells us that there are things in which the saved need to make haste. In what things ought we to make haste? Psalm 119:60 tells us; "I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy com-

mandments." We observe that Lot would have his sons-in-law to be obedient to the Lord. - but he would linger. His sons-in-law had heard his message; but they also saw his lingering.. Lot would linger in obedience, and his own wife would disobey the Word of God, God's command, and look back even while witnessing and being part in the mercy of God, even while being delivered! Well does the Lord remind His own, "Remember lot's wife."

Another aspect of the heavenly messengers was their message of concern. The messengers of God showed a great concern for Lot and were mindful of the things that also concerned Lot. Notice their question in verse 12: "Hast thou here any besides?" Being mindful, being concerned, of the things of others, the loved ones of others, should also be our concern. The Word of God declares in Acts 16:31, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house." Many argue about "household salvation," but the Word of God shows us that all things are possible with Him. When we witness to one person of his need for Christ, let us seek to be concerned with their concerns. This shows them our true sincerity, love and concern.

David said in Psalm 119:60. "I made haste and delayed not - to keep thy commandments." Why is it that the child of God always should, always needs to make haste in the service to the Lord; in being obedient to Him? Paul reminds us in 2 Cor. 4:7, "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels." Yea, it so pleased the Lord that through the "foolishness of preaching," the carrying forth of "Glad Tidings," the Gospel; should so be done by vessels of clay; vessels marred and scarred by sin, vessels so subject to failure. Vessels of clay, of flesh, for again it is written that "the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak." Lot, at the time of the angels appearance had gotten old, yet he had spent most of his life in Sodom, away from the Godly influences of Abraham. They lesson here for us is also quite clear, i.e., the further we stray from the Lord, the sooner and faster we need to return. It is always easier to descend than it is to ascend; easier to destroy than to build. Straying away from prayer, communing with the Lord, from daily Scripture reading, from regular church attendance in an ungodly influence which eventually leads to worldliness. I speak from my own shameful experiences. Let us remember why the children of God are often referred to as "brethren", why the church is composed of "brethren." It is an Old Testament term designating "family". The family of God, working as a family unit for the benefit of one another, for the bearing of one another's burdens; considering as a family, the great importance of our testimony, in church attendance and supporting of the pastor both prayerfully and financially, "For thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn."

We need to make haste in obedience because perseverance is often difficult. High are the obstacles which the child of God must hurdle, and worldliness will

(Continued on Page 4 Column 4)

"It is later than you think" — inscription on a sundial in an Old World cathedral yard.

The Baptist Examiner Forum I

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER — P.O. Box 60 - ASHLAND, KENTUCKY 41105-0060

Explain II Tim. 2:26. Whose will does the last word refer to?

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II Timothy 2:26: "And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will" (KJV).

II Timothy 2:26: "And that they may return to soberness out of the snare of the devil (having been held captive by him) to do God's will." (Vincent)

II Timothy 2:26: "And that they may come to their senses and escape out of the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him, henceforth to do God's will." (Amplified).

II Timothy 2:26: "And that they may return to soberness out of the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him, returning to soberness so as to serve the will of that one, God." (Wuest).

This is a question that, when I first received it, I thought would be an easy question to answer. The more I answer these questions, the more I learn of the depths of God's Word. How we need to read and study this Book that we might recognize the greatness of God.

Space will not allow a detailed exegesis of this verse. Let us try to give in general terms the meaning of whose will is referred to in this verse. I'm sure the reason for this question is the fact that two different Greek words are used for the pronouns "him" and "his." The word for him is "autos" and for his is "ekeinos." The way I understand it is that usually in the Greek the same pronoun would be used if the same person was being spoken of. For this reason, along with others I do not believe him and his refer to the same persons.

The question is, whose will does the last word refer to? I believe it refers to the will of God. There are many things to consider when trying to understand this verse.

The first thing we need to determine is whether or not this verse and the context of it are referring to lost or to saved people. Personally, I believe the context refers to saved people. I do have some difficulty with verse 25 and the phrase; "if God peradventure will give them repentance." Though this phrase would most assuredly refer to the lost, I do think it could also refer to the saved. God must and does grant repentance to saved people.

Surely we all agree that there is such a thing as Christian repentance. There are several reasons I believe this verse refers to saved people. First, the whole

context seems to be speaking of saved people. Read the preceding verse and notice that saved people are being spoken to in the main. Secondly, lost people cannot recover for they have never been saved. They cannot return to soberness for they have never been sober. The context seems to be speaking of saved people who have backslidden and have fallen under the influence of Satan. I might add that the devil does not have to set a snare or trap for lost people. They are willingly under his power. The Devil must however, set traps and snares for the child of God.

The question still to be answered is the meaning of this verse. Does this verse mean that the child of God can be taken captive by the devil at the devil's will? To this I say, no. The devil cannot control us whenever he so desires. Does this verse mean that the child of God can be taken captive by the devil in accordance to the will of God? This is a very real possibility. We do know that this sometimes happens. It happened with Job and with Peter for two specific examples. Thank God we are protected from the total desires of Satan. Does this verse teach that there were some then as well as now, who could be under the influence of the devil and doing the devil's will; but can be and should be recovered to do the will of God? This interpretation could also be true. The first interpretation I strongly object to. The last two interpretations are both true and therefore could be the true meaning of the text in question. I lean towards the last interpretation. That there are men who recover from the devil's will and immediately begin to do the will of God. May this be the desire of us all: to avoid the snares of the devil and to do the will of God. May God bless you all.

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"And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient. In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will" (II Tim. 2:24-26).

Many Greek scholars believe that "by him" and "his will" both refer to Satan, while others maintain that "by him" is referring to Satan, but "at his will" is referring to God. As Satan can only do what God limits him to do as we see in the account of Job (Job 1:12; 2:6). I can not see how the last "at his will" can refer to Satan.

In this passage the aged apostle Paul is instructing young Timothy how to deal with all men, especially those "who oppose themselves," those who have become entrapped by the devil and thereby have placed themselves in opposition to the truth. Paul tells Timothy that by gentleness, meekness, and skillful teaching that, "if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil." In doing this they come back to serve the will of God.

Kenneth S. Wuest in his "Word Studies" translated this passage, "And the Lord's bondsman must not in the nature of the case quarrel, but be gentle to all, skillful in teaching, forbearing, in meekness correcting those who set themselves in opposition, if perchance God may give them repentance, resulting in a precise, experiential knowledge of the truth, and that they may return to soberness out of the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him, (so as to serve) the will of that One (God)."

Why is it that so few today, who become entrapped by the devil and set themselves in opposition to the truth, never recover themselves? and acknowledge the truth? Is it because the "servant of the Lord" instead of heeding Paul's instructions strives with that one, is not gentle, not patient, does not instruct in meekness?

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Please read II Timothy 2:24-26. Verse 26 says, "And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will."

Paul is instructing Timothy in the character and behavior of a servant of the Lord in regard to those who are in error and opposition to their own good, as to the truth of God. While it is God's work to give them repentance from their error; His instrument here spoken of is a gentle, correcting minister. The one who seeks to instruct, or correct the devil's captive is to do so with great patience and hope that God will grant freedom to the captive.

Verse 26 teaches that if God grants repentance to acknowledging the truth, that person would literally "come to their senses," or as the Greek text says, "ananepho," ie "to return to soberness." The idea being that the person would be as though awaking out of a drunken sleep. Certainly there are many today in an intox-

icated state of error and heresy. All men apart from rebirth, unpurged from their sins, and without the grace and love of God are in the snare of the devil and held his captive. All men before God's deliverance are as Ephesian 2:2 states: "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience." When our sovereign God grants them enlightenment; they, seeing their state, escape from the devil's snare.

The phrase, "who are taken captive by him" is a perfect participle in the Greek and literally means, "having been held captive, taken alive." It has the connotation of a person having been taken captive in war. Indeed, this is a most miserable state for a sinner of any degree. Satan leads such, and inspires them to degrees of his bidding that the natural depravity of man follows to his ultimate suffering. The only remedy for this situation is God's apprehension and deliverance.

The phrase "at his will" is "eis to ekeimou thelema." It can be translated "unto, or to his will." For this reason many believe "his will" is referring to God's will and not Satan's will. Hence, they would read "out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him" — to his, that is, to God's will; to do God's will. That is, of course, what happens after deliverance from Satan's power, but I believe "at his will" here refers to Satan because of the natural flow and order of the sentence. It seems more natural and correct to refer "at his will" to the participle "taken captive." Those without Christ are subject to the prince of the power of the air and the wicked course of this world that he promotes. He leads his captives, who are slaves of sin, to fulfill his desires.

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Actually in order to study verse 26 we must consider at least two verses before. These three verses are dealing with a preacher being ready to witness to all men in meekness. We are to witness in case God will give them repentance so that they will recover themselves out of the snare of Satan.

Satan has been made god of this world or the prince of darkness. He has power to take captive anyone he chooses to take with the exception of God's people. He can only touch them as he is given permission to do so.

All others he can take as he chooses. The "will" of verse 26 is Satan's will. He takes captive who he wills to take.

We preach to everyone. Those who are granted repentance believe and are freed from the snare of Satan. Thus they recover themselves out of the snare of the devil.

URGENCY

(Continued from Page 3)

surely cripple should we delay to make haste. Notice Lot: "I cannot escape to the mountain,

lest some evil take me, and I die" (19:19). Lot feared he could not persevere in the journey. He had lingered in Sodom to old age, and could not make the journey. He was neither fir nor had the ability. The influence of Sodom had made him sluggish in Godly matters. His thoughts were upon the power of himself - and not on the power of God. Lot, as with many of us was hindered from right thoughts and considered little, the mercy being displayed to him. Sin is often the sure result of delay to duty. Had Lot not lingered, we wonder if that did also influence his wife into looking back. Weak members in a church are often inclined to weaken ones who are not, while one persevering member may well influence the whole of the church.

We have observed some of the reasons why the saved need to make haste. This is a need we have before we can seek to hasten the lost; and the lost need desperately to be hastened. Why? If the child of God is apt to linger, how much more so are the lost? The lost are content to dwell in darkness, for this is their love. They have settled down in the Sodom of sin. The word: "Sodom" is always connected with sin, for it means "burning," bringing to mind the lusts of man and his burning desire for sin. In our land of freedom of "expression," dwell many Sodomites who refer to themselves as "Gays." Such should not be condoned in this, or any land, but the rather a cry from the watchtower should echo far and wide; crying out against such evils and perverse ways, seeking to hasten them from such sins of wickedness, despising the sin, but not the sinner. Sinners need to be hastened because they are bound by many ties in the city of destruction. Even as the Lord directed those who witnessed the raising of Lazarus, we must "loose them and let them go." We must cut the bonds of sin asunder with the "sharp two-edged sword," even the Word of God. Sinners are slow to make haste because they do not believe the solemn warnings of God's Word, but rather see it as a thing to mock! While in their youth they see it as a present inconvenience, something suitable to little children and old men, while relying on a deathbed confession. Oh beloved, procrastination is a leading device of deception to keep mankind from repentance. Listen as the apostle Paul stood before Felix in Acts 24:24-25; "And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee." Words spoke louder than actions in this instance. Felix's "convenient season" as far as we know, never came. He may have trembled, but I do not believe I would be wrong in saying that for the past 1920 years he has been calling for Paul from the torments of Hell.

As Paul stood before King Agrippa, Acts 16:28 states: "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." More procrastination, more disbelief. In the Lord's work of hastening unbelievers, we by His grace, are the example of Christianity.

(Continued on Page 5 Column 4)

There is something you can do to make this world better. you can contribute one consecrated life.

The Baptist Examiner Forum II

SUBMIT QUESTIONS ON ANY BIBLE SUBJECT

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER — P.O. Box 60 — ASHLAND, KENTUCKY 41105-0060

Should we use the terms, "Calvinism" and "Arminianism"? If not, what terms should we use?

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The use of specific terms in religion should be based on knowledge of the terms involved. Calvinism and Arminianism are theological terms. Neither of these two terms convey all the ideas of the men who expounded them. The two terms do, however, convey two antithetic systems of doctrine. They are diametrically opposed to one another with no middle ground.

Arminianism bases the saving purpose of God on the acts or merits of man. It is probably best embodied in the term of the "free will" of man. The spirit of Arminianism is carried forth today by the modernists. It is the modernist that makes reason instead of revelation the standard of truth. The truth about the death of Christ as our substitute shows this fact. When he died on the cross, He secured completely the redemption of His chosen people. And yet, the Arminian states that God must have help. One must let Him save. Another is that some work must be done by man to assist God in salvation. The Bible is very clear on both of these points. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5).

Calvinism bases the saving purpose of God on his own sovereign pleasure. That is to say the pleasure of God. Calvinism has as its basis, five points to sustain what is said relative to the sovereign pleasure of God. First, that man is totally depraved. Secondly, that man is unconditionally chosen by God. Thirdly, the atonement is limited to those chosen. Fourthly, that those who are chosen are drawn by irresistible grace to faith and repentance. Fifthly, those who are chosen and drawn are preserved forever. We can see how this term is the exact opposite of the one above. Man is utterly and completely left out as far as any assistance he might render to God's sovereign plan. The Bible is most clear on the point also, "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called, and whom he called, them he also justified; and whom he justified, them he

also glorified" (Romans 8:29-30).

As to the use of these two terms; one is acceptable, one is not. Since the works of Calvin were not written until the middle sixteenth century, I feel that a pre-existing term should be used since these truths existed some 1500 hundred years before Calvin. That term is the "Doctrines of Grace." I am not in favor of crediting Calvin with that which the Bible reveals. Another term that is also used is a word that has been created with the first letters of the five points; "T-U-L-I-P."

As for the term Arminianism, I think that it should be used as long as they continue their practices based on God needing help.

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I am not particularly against the use of the term "Calvinism," but I think it is much better to use the expression "doctrines of grace." I use the term but very little. If one uses the term "Calvinism," he should, at least once in a while, explain how it came about.

The doctrines of grace did not originate with John Calvin. These doctrines were taught by the people of God long before Calvin was born. So it is better to use the term "doctrines of grace," when referring to such doctrines as the effectual call, election, predestination, etc.

I see nothing particularly wrong with use the term "Arminianism," which refers to the teaching of freewillism. This doctrine originated with a man named Jacobus Arminius. He revised Calvin's views of predestination and freedom of the will. Arminius taught that man has the freedom to choose or not to choose. The doctrine of man is that a man has a free will and can choose to accept Christ or to reject Him on his own freewill. This teaching is that God just leaves the choosing up to man. This is contrary to the teaching of God's word. Paul said in Romans 7:18-19, "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do." If a man has a free-will to choose as he pleases, when he pleases, and how he pleases; how is it that Paul could not do the things he so desired? The Scripture is teaching here, as it does in so many other places, that the will is in bondage to sin and Satan, rather than free.

Man in his natural state is inclined to evil rather than good. He is always bent to do evil

things, until God by His Grace rescues him from the clutches of Satan. Since man in his heart is set to do evil, this is what he will do until he is saved by the marvelous, matchless grace of the Son of God.

Man in his natural state sins continually, and that only. Genesis 6:5; Jeremiah 17:9. Man is bound by sin and therefore he does not have a freewill and this is what is called the doctrine of "Arminianism" or "freewillism."

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No! Back in the fifties I heard a lot of men who believed in sovereign grace use the term Calvinism. The reason for this was because very few Baptists believed in sovereign grace back then. Most preachers who preached sovereign grace were Presbyterian; and Calvin, their founder, was a Presbyterian. T.B. Freeman was the first Baptist preacher in this area preaching this truth, as far as I knew, at that time. I found out later that there were a few others scattered around that believed it but were keeping it to themselves. When I first heard Brother Freeman preach five evenings on the five doctrines of grace, I just couldn't believe it. I started reading my Bible and searching for proof that he might be wrong. But the more I studied, the more I was convinced that he was right. However, I don't think we should use the term "Calvinism," but rather the term "doctrines of grace." Calvin didn't invent these doctrines. The Holy Spirit did when he led the men to write God's Word. The reason I don't use the term "Calvinism" and say that I am a Calvinist is because I am not a Presbyterian. I am a Baptist. Yes, I believe some things that Presbyterians do, but that does not make me a Calvinist. Even though Calvin believed in the doctrines of grace, he still held to Baptismal Regeneration. Now, if we add baptism to salvation, we are adding works, which does away with grace. I am a Baptist because the Bible led me to be one. My parents were of two other faiths. I believe the doctrines of grace because the Bible teaches them. All the old Baptists believed in the sovereignty of God and the doctrines of grace - giants in preaching the Word like Charles Haddon Spurgeon of England who was called the prince of preachers; John Gill, another great preacher of England; J.P. Boyce, founder and first president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Louisville) and president of the

Southern Baptist Convention 1872-1879, 1888; B.H. Carroll, founder and first president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; John Broadus who taught at Southern Seminary, Louisville, J.R. Graves; John Bunyan, Arthur W. Pink, Andrew Fuller and Augustus H. Strong. These great preachers taught, preached, and wrote many books in the early eighteen hundreds and the nineteen hundreds. These men studied the Word of God and knew that God was not the weakling that is preached today. They believed that God did what He wanted to do, when He wanted to, how He wanted to, and where He wanted to. In other words they believed Daniel 4:35 and Ephesians 1:11. The Sovereignty of God, the doctrines of grace, not Calvinism.

Oh! you say, what about Arminianism? Should we use this term. Arminianism is just another term for Freewillism, I have used it quite a lot in the last twenty-five years, but not as much as I used too. I have had a lot of people come up to me and ask, just who are these Arminians? Brethren, why don't we just use plain language and the people will know what we are talking about. Those who will not accept the doctrines of grace are free-will in doctrine regardless of the church name they go by. Many so-called Missionary Baptists are free-will in doctrine and should go by the name Free-will Baptist. But you might say, "we don't fall from grace, wash feet, or accept Post Trib Rapture; therefore we are not Free-will Baptists." Brethren, let's face it. You add works to grace in believing that man has a free will. Read Philippians 2:13, John 1:12, 13 and Romans 9:16.

May the Lord bless.

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The terms "Calvinism" and "Arminianism" are not Bible terms, but rather are terms given by some theologians to distinguish between two different teachings concerning the doctrines of salvation. They are named after two men who held two different views.

Calvin preached the "doctrines of grace," but he had his heresies like other men. He also practiced infant baptism. Arminians preach "free will," and practice many heresies.

I for one would prefer not to be called either "Calvinist," or "Arminian," but rather called "faithful"; holding to the truths once delivered to the saints. Call me a "Sovereign Gracer." "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8).

God bless you.

URGENCY

(Continued from Page 4)

to them. We therefore must be earnest, patient and repetitious in our plea. See if this was not so with the angels who hastened Lot. We must have strong resolve: alarm them of sure impending doom, and of the great uncertainty of their future,

should they remain as they are. For each of us who are saved, we and we alone, may well be the only example of Christ some sinners may ever see or hear. Are others able to see us only, or do they see Christ in us? This is really what can be called a living Bible.

What of your loved ones in the flesh, your friends, neighbors, co-workers, people you do business with? How many of them are on the way to hell? We have as churches, a grave responsibility before us. Will we lay our talent in a napkin? None but the true churches have the authority and the command to go forth; what will the Lord say to each of us individually when we stand before Him? Will we come bringing our sheaves with us, or will we come into His presence, the presence of the king, empty handed? What hell-bound soul has heard of his destiny from you today? This is one question that often haunts me as I retire for the night.

A church will not grow, if it is not busy. Are many of our churches small because so few hear us, or are they small because so few witness? "Them that honor me I will honor", is the promise of God.

CHRISTIANS

(Continued from Page 1)

mind, is the fact that Christians are afraid to go into the community and witness to others about their Saviour. Now, I know that there are many excuses given as to why we don't witness as we should, but I believe that if we faced the situation we would have to admit that most Christians are cowards when it comes to witnessing. Most Christians are afraid of what people will think if they walk up to their door and tell them about Jesus. Many will say I'm afraid that they will think I belong to one of these cults that do a lot of this. Many will say that they just can't come up with the right words to say to people, but again those who use this excuse are simply afraid to talk to people about Jesus Christ. These same people can talk about all other subjects at great length but when it comes to talking to them about Jesus, most Christians will keep silent and never mention His dear name. Let me ask the readers why are Christians cowards when it comes to witnessing? What greater name could proceed from our lips than that name which is above every name? Listen friends, we need to realize that men are saved through the preaching of the Gospel, and we should never be afraid to give men the words of life. I wonder how the modern Christian would react to a little persecution. Most of us are cowards today when all we might suffer is a little verbal abuse. What if we were killed for witnessing, or cast into prison for teaching the Word of God? May God help us and give us courage to serve Him.

Secondly, many Christians are cowards in their own homes. Do you realize that there are many men who will not make their families go to church? I consider this very cowardly and the man who will not make his family go to church with him

(Continued on Page 6 Column 1)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
MAY 31, 1986
PAGE FIVE

CHRISTIANS

(Continued from Page 5)

ought to be ashamed of himself. Many men are afraid of what their children will think of them if they make them go when they don't want to. I'll tell you friends, the children shouldn't think much of him if he doesn't make them go. It's the responsibility of every man to have his family in church. All men should have the attitude that Joshua had. Notice in Joshua 24:15... "but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Take notice that Joshua didn't wonder if he should make his family obey the Word of God, or if his children would get upset if they were made to obey God. Joshua said, or in other words, he spoke for his family, and said, that they will serve God. I think a lot of men should say to their children "you will serve God, and you will go to church whether you want to or not." I get so disgusted with the television programs that advocate families taking a vote on important matters and giving the children an equal vote. This is anti-Scriptural and an ungodly practice.

Now the man of the house is not only to make his children obey God's commandments and especially go to church, but all who live in that house with him. This includes his wife, servant, or whoever lives in his house. Notice in Genesis 18:19, "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; and that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him." Many men are cowards when it comes to making the family obey. Regardless of whether our families get mad at us or threaten to rebel, we are to obey God and command them to serve God. Oh, that it could be said of all Christian men what was said of Abraham; "For I know him, that he will command his children, and his household after him."

Thirdly, the modern Christian is a coward in the church. Many will not speak up in the church on very important matters. For instance, the church decides that it wants to have a Christmas program. Many sound members have let things like this slide by because they didn't want to make waves with the pastor or members of the church. This is a kind of cowardly attitude that has led to the ruin of many churches. Brethren, we dare not be silent on matters such as these. Then there are those who will let their pastor rule them like some kind of dictator and will allow him to do whatever he pleases. No pastor has the right to treat a church this way, and the church should never allow it to happen. Many of God's pastors think that they can do whatever they please in their church and completely disregard church authority. And many times, maybe most of the time, they get by with it because there are those in the church who have no back-bone, and are afraid to say anything to their pastor. I personally think that pastor who treats his church this way is not to take all of the blame for this situation because if the church

would keep him in line and not let him rule over them, most of these cases could be avoided.

Next, there are those who will not stand against heresy in the church. Listen friends, it is the responsibility of the whole church to keep heresy out. If the pastor begins to preach heresy and will not quit preaching it, the church should get rid of him and find a man who will preach the truth. Playing the part of the coward and not speaking up will only cause harm and division in the church. The church should fight against heresy with every ounce of breath that she has, and never give in to it. May God grant courage to His people to stand for the truth and to keep false teachings from the church.

Fourthly, the Modern Christian is a coward when it comes to stepping out by faith. We can see so much of this in the land today. Men no longer are walking by faith but rather by sight. Material things have become too important to us, and it has come to the point that we say we just couldn't survive without this luxury or that one. I wonder if many times our luxuries are not more of a curse than a blessing, seeing how they hinder us many times from service. Whatever God may call us to do we should never be afraid to step out and do His bidding. If God calls a man to do a job, He will provide that individual with all of his need that he might do the Lord's work. As I thought about this, I thought of how Noah was warned by God of things not yet seen and told to prepare an ark. Noah was not afraid to step out and build the ark as God commanded. He didn't sit down and try and figure up if he had the time to do the job, but went right to work. I can hear the modern Christian as he is faced with this situation. Well, I don't think I can leave my job at the plant because I probably couldn't find a job this good anywhere else. Where is the faith of our forefathers?

I then thought of Abraham of how he was called out into a land, and he knew not whither he went. Abraham knew that God wanted him to go, and he just went. Now, this is very unlike Christians of today. Many preachers will not go pastor churches because they cannot be guaranteed salaries which will meet their lifestyles. This is not having faith like Abraham or Noah, but rather a self dependence and this self dependence is dishonoring to God. What a shame it is when the modern Christian is afraid to trust God for all of his needs, and is afraid to step out and serve God like the saints of old. If we could realize the mighty power of God and live our lives believing in this power, we might better serve God, and not be the cowards that we are many times.

Fifthly, many pastors are cowards. Many pastors of the Lord's churches are not standing as they should because they are cowards. Many will not preach some of the great truths which they believe because they are afraid they will offend some, and they will leave the church or maybe they will quit visiting the services. Many will say "if I preach election I will lose some." I say to these brethren, let them go. If they will not hear sound preaching, let them go their way. Don't starve the rest of the church from sheep food just because a few are offended in the truth. Don't ever be afraid to declare the whole counsel of God. Many are afraid that if they preach

these truths, their church will get rid of them and seek a new pastor. If this be the case, so be it. There are a lot of churches that appreciate the truth that you can preach in, and furthermore, a church that won't let you declare the whole counsel doesn't deserve you anyway.

And then there are pastors who are afraid to preach about sin. Again they are afraid they might offend people and drive them off. God's people continually need to be taught the ways of God and to be admonished for their sins, and any pastor worth his salt will speak out on sin; and be on guard that sin enters not into the church. This brings us to the point that many pastors will not lead their churches to exclude members from their churches. Many are cowards when it comes to discipline, and will not lead their churches in the Scriptural way concerning sin. Many churches are filled with people who never attend the services. Many are filled with those who might be drunkards or those who have involved themselves with adultery, and many numerous sins. These people have no right to be members of Baptist churches, and the pastors of churches that have such members are cowards for not leading the church to exclude them.

Then there are pastors who are afraid to make waves in the community, therefore they will join in with Protestant groups and try to get along with them. I believe that we should try to get along with every one that we can, but not at the expense of our beliefs. When men say that we must join them to get along, Christians should have courage and stand up against them and say we will have no part of your sins; but we will serve God the way He told us to. May God give courage to pastors that they faint not and that they might contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints.

In conclusion, let me say that it is evident to me that we all are cowards from time to time, and we all need to pray for more courage. Many times we give excuses for not serving God, and the fact of the matter is, we are just plain too scared to. May God give us courage especially in these last days. May God give us courage to speak out against sin and heresy, and to rebuke the world with the Word of God. Many wonder why we don't have persecution in our days like they did in days gone by. I believe that can be easily answered by saying most Christians are too cowardly to cause a stir. You notice the courage of the Church in the Bible and you will see they were continually witnessing of and preaching Jesus Christ. That's why they were persecuted. Had they been afraid to serve God and stayed in their homes and never mentioned the name of Christ, no one would have bothered them. This gives us something to think about. Where is the persecution? I heard a brother say one time, "Where there is motion, there is friction." Where is the motion? Where are the witnesses of God? I wonder how much longer the Lord will put up with a cowardly people. God help us.

INDIVIDUAL

(Continued from Page 1)

never known a man to come to Christ who had not been personally spoken to concerning Christ. Certainly a great majority of those who have found the

Lord, have been led to Him by individual effort.

As a rule, the results of the personal plan are more satisfactory. Hand-picked fruit will keep longer. Such a plan is free from sensationalism and mass-psychology, and minus the high-pressure methods so characteristic of the modern revival. With the personal plan there is time for prayer and instruction. Many questions that may arise in the inquirer's mind concerning the plan of salvation may receive proper attention. The chances of a mistake concerning conversion are greatly lessened.

One of the many advantages of the individual plan, is the fact that those who are thus led to Christ are also usually led to the church. It is a well known fact that only a small percent of the professions reported in great religious campaigns ever connect themselves with any church. Unless the reports of these meetings are purposely exaggerated, the proportion of additions to the number of reported professions is truly lamentable. One explanation may be found in the fact that many evangelists give much of their time to belittling and berating the churches. If the churches are so worthless and vile as frequently painted, it is not surprising that honest men and women, to say nothing of Christians, should care to cast their lot with them. There can be little doubt that the most effective opposition to the churches has been caused consciously, or otherwise, by off-colour evangelists. Surely they have their reward.

Individual evangelism multiplies the number of evangelists. The work of evangelism should by no means be restricted to the preacher. In some real sense, every member of the church can do the work of an evangelist. A church with one hundred members should have one hundred evangelists laboring for the lost. The pastor and the evangelists are hopelessly inadequate to the demands of a dying world. Their ministry at best is circumscribed. If during the present year, every Christian would lead one soul to Christ it would mean a greater number of converts to Christianity than has been won by all the pastors and evangelists in the past fifty years. Should every one win one every year there would not be left an unregenerate person in the universe within three years. There are unnumbered chariots along the highway of life awaiting our coming. There are millions awaiting the word that only one can speak. Shall this word remain unspoken? It may be that in the day for which all days were made, we may realize for the first time the tragedy of the unuttered word. Though walking daily with Christians, many are saying, "No man careth for my soul." Seemingly, at least, they are justified in making the declaration. The fields are white unto harvest, but those who are doing the work of the evangelist are few. In political, social and business life there are numberless opportunities for evangelistic achievements. A mother realizing that her daughter must soon die, said: "I hope you will give your life to Christ." The poor lost and dying girl replied: "Mother, I have been in your home for nineteen years, and this is the first time you have ever spoken to me about my soul. It is too late now." Picture, if possible, the feelings of the mother when she meets her

daughter in judgment! All mothers should be evangelists of whom the world is not worthy.

The qualifications for individual evangelism are few, but absolutely indispensable. First of all, one who would persuade others to commit their lives to the truth of the Bible must himself implicitly believe the Bible. Not that the Bible is inspired, here and there, and no one can certainly tell where. Not that the Bible "contains" the Word of God, but is, from Genesis to Revelation, the very Word of God. It is hardly possible that one could be influenced to accept as a Bible, a book that is filled with truth and falsehood, strangely mingled. The best evidence of the truth of this statement is the fact that no destructive critic has ever been known as a soul winner. It seems that the author of the Bible has uniformly refused to bless the labours of those who deny the truth of any part of the Bible.

He must also have an adequate conception of the tragedy of a lost soul. With all his mind and soul he must believe that everyone dying without Christ, will rest in hell with the nations that forget God. The individual who does not believe the soul lost, will, of course, deem it unnecessary to work for its salvation. Christ came to seek and save that which was lost, and only those who believe with Christ as to their lost condition will seek their salvation. The loss of conviction among Christians concerning the reality of eternal punishment, has gone far to quench the evangelistic spirit. A wife yearning for the soul of her lost husband, said: "Husband, I fear we will be separated." The husband, astonished, replied: "How can you entertain such a thought?" "Well," said the wife, "I am a Christian and expect to make my home in Heaven, and unless you give your life to Christ, you will not be with me."

There must also be proper preparation. Chiefest of all, we need to talk to God about every lost soul that we approach. We must go in the power of God. It is necessary that we tarry till we are endued with power from on high. Before we go to the lost, we must go to the Saviour of the lost. The proper approach can only be had as we are directed by the Holy Spirit. The lost will hear us after God has heard us in their behalf. We can only obtain power with lost sinners, when the power has been given, by the Saviour of sinners.

Having talked to God about them, we must go and talk with them. We may thus be used of God in answering our prayers. When Ananias had been instructed by God he was ready to go and speak to Paul. God had revealed Paul in a different light, and now Ananias could put his hand on him, say, "Brother Saul." Paul was awaiting the word that only Ananias could speak. Many are today waiting the message that we only can bring. Saul felt that there was at least one who cherished for him a brotherly affection. Deep in the heart of a wrecked world there comes the question, "Do Christians really care if we are lost?" We can only convince them of our concern for them by efforts in their behalf. Were they in danger of temporal death, friend or foe would be ready to warn them of approaching danger, and yet they are in danger of eternal destruction, and we pass them

(Continued on Page 7 Column 1)

We need an unchanging Christ for the changing years. Jesus Christ is "the same yesterday, today, and forever."

INDIVIDUAL

(Continued from Page 6)

by with deadly indifference. Let us snatch them as brands from the eternal burning!

Having done all, let us leave the matter with God. We should not, as sometimes claimed, "force a decision." We should not attempt to force anyone to profess Christ. Such methods have already filled our churches with unregenerate members. It is not by might nor power, but by "my Spirit saith the Lord." It is our business to carry Christ to the world, and God's business to bring the world to Himself. Unless God shall make them willing in the day of His power, better a thousand times leave them in the world where they properly belong. Unfortunately many of our churches have what is known as "Decision Day." Such a day makes religion a mere matter of mental decision, and eliminates the necessity of the Holy Spirit in the redemption of the sinner. Our religion is not our work, but His work, who wrought out for us the "finished" work of redemption.

"I am with you always," is the promise of Him who made us co-labourers with Him.

GATE

(Continued from Page 1)

ed the people of Israel and Judah through God's messenger. Jeremiah said: "Stand in the gate... and hear ye the word of the LORD." Friends, when Christianity compromises with world, let every Baptist stand in the gate. When sin is rampant, God's pointing hand on you is to stand at the gate. It takes courage to stand up in the gate and be counted. The question arises: If no one will stand, who will stand? If not now, then when are you to stand? The answer must be under your own decision. If others will not stand, then you and I will take a stand, and by the power of God's grace we will stand. Friends, there are things to consider that you and I will stand for.

I. First of all: STAND IN THE GATE OF SALVATION. The Bible says in Ephesians 2:1, "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins." It is very clear from this verse that man as a sinner is spiritually dead and that the sovereign hand of God's grace alone can put forth life from the dead and man be quickened. It is a possession of life that only can make him stand. But, you can make a dead man sit in a certain position, but to let him stand on his own, he needs possession of life. Man, in his nature, is totally depraved. He is helpless and is ruined in sin, a stranger to God, an unregenerate that can never stand by his own in the sense of the term "standing" used here.

A. Sovereign Grace. Only the quickened has the reason to stand. The dead man cannot stand. God's power alone can make a dead man or lost sinner be quickened to stand in salvation. It is the influencing power of the Holy Spirit encircled to His own elect to the impartation of His own nature, "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature..." (II Peter 1:4). "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God..." (I Peter 1:23). But, how can I be saved and believe Him when I'm

dead? In Romans 10:17.

eth by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." We find also in Romans 1:17, "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." Here is the power of God's grace giving life, and in hearing the gospel the gift of faith and repentance come to the heart of man and he becomes, converted, "the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord."

nothing to glory for ourselves, for by grace are we saved through faith.

B. Selection (election). Then we come to the doctrine of election. If there is a people to be saved it is by the purpose of God that He must save them. I'm glad God saved me purposely not accidentally. It was in the plan of God before the world began that He purposely elected you and me unto salvation. The purpose of God to save is essentially the doctrine of election. Ephesians 1:4 says, "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world..." and verse 5 says, "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will." God elects unto life — unto grace. It teaches us that the ultimate destiny of every individual is decided by the will of God, not according to the foreseen faith. No sir! I cannot pervert the written word of God. In I Peter 1:2, "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father." No one is saved simply because they are elected. No sir, they must be brought to the preaching of the gospel, and by hearing God's Word the gift of faith enables the sinner to believe Christ, and also repentance from sin makes him depart from sinning and by the grace of God, salvation comes.

We realize full well that this doctrine of election is very distasteful to and rejected by the so-called religious world. For what is being preached today and taught is that God loves everybody, and that Christ died for everyone in the world and they maintain that the final decision rests in the sinner's hand as to whether or not he will come to Christ for salvation. Such is presently the accepted preaching in the vast majority of churches today. If anyone is bold to stand up and speak against such teaching, he is considered out of step, a bigot, a heretic and is to be avoided. If he is a pastor, he is very likely to be voted out of the pulpit, and if this preacher preaches it to another church he will lose fellowship from other fellow preachers and is no longer needed as a preacher. But, stand in the gate. Preach it as it is in the Bible, teach them anyway. Some preachers believe the doctrine of election but never can you hear them preach it in their pulpits. Why? They are afraid of losing members. Friends hear me, I don't care who you are, I am bringing the message of God and I must preach and teach them all the counsel of God. This is not an invented doctrine called Calvinism. No sir! It is Biblical, it is the position of the Baptists. Stand in the gate.

C. Security of the Believers. Friends, I believe in the eternal security of the believer. What I mean is that, once God saves you, you are saved forever. In II Timothy 4:18 we read, "And the Lord shall deliver me

from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever Amen." Again turn to Psalms 37:23, 24. "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way." And verse 24 says, "Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand." What a blessed thing to be kept in the hollow of God's hand, and safe and secure in the arms of Jesus. What about the sin of the believer? Is he still saved when he commits sin? Yes. Our old nature remains the same, for there's no good thing in the flesh. But to commit known sin is to lose our fellowship with Him and the joy of salvation. But salvation in us remains also the same that is forever and ever. This is what I stand for.

II. And now secondly, STAND IN THE GATE OF SEPARATION. Our text says, "Stand in the gate..." To stand in the gate will require separation.

A. Teaching From False Doctrines. I believe in separation. The Bible says, "Be ye separate." Every Baptist is commanded to separate from every false teacher. I cannot believe and fellowship with the ecumenicals and the charismatics. I separate from everyone that does not adhere to the deity of Christ, Trinity, the inspiration of the Bible, the virgin birth of Christ, His blood atonement and others of the fundamentals of faith. God commanded us to be separated. You and I must take a stand in the gate against such devilish doctrines.

B. Togetherness With the World. The Bible says, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers..." Friends, we have no business with the current move with the world of modern morality and the lust of it. Christians are still in the world but no longer to be "of" the world Micah 2:10, "Arise ye, and depart; for this is not your rest: because it is polluted, it shall destroy you, even with a sore destruction." What an alarming call for Christians when they begin to fellowship with the world. Remember Christians, that this is not your rest. Do not wonder, therefore if you find thistle and thorns growing here. Your paradise lies on another land. Be ye separate. Stand in the gate.

C. Total Separation From Sin. Christians should maintain a wall of separation between themselves and the world of sin. If you can find pleasure in sin, then in sin you choose to lie. But, if your joy is in your integrity and your friends are all godly and if you find a happiest moment in hearing God's Word, in the church, in prayer; then the highest of your Christian life is the proof of what kind of Christian you are. There is only one word that every Baptist must shout before the world and that is "separation." Stand in the Gate.

III. Now to our third point is that we are to STAND IN THE GATE OF THE SCRIPTURAL CHURCH. Our text says, "Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house... to worship the LORD." Friends, God has chosen a place for every believer to stand together and be there and to be a part of the church. Yes, God founded a church, and in this local church God is honored.

A. Assembly. A Church is a group of baptized believers who meet together to glorify God. It is an assembly or congregation of born again, baptized believers, associated by a covenant of faith. Therefore, it is a local, visible, and not a universal, invisible church. When God founded His church, He looks upon it and views it with delight, and sees His eternal purpose accomplished in it. This is the assembly where you and I are to give attendance, loyalty, and to stand for a defense and to love this church.

B. Authority of the Church. God gave His authority to the local church to evangelize the whole world through missions and that is a Baptist church and missionary in its kind. I cannot believe in a self proclaimed church and self proclaimed pastor. Romans 10:15 says, "And how shall they preach except they be sent..."? Every preacher that preached the gospel, every person baptized, every mission established into a local church must be done under the authority of an already established church. This is where I stand.

C. Activity of the Church. A local church has a definite goal, and that is to spread the gospel throughout the world. The pastor is responsible to feed the flock, under the guidance of God's Spirit. The church is supported by paying tithes by each member, praying for the leadership of the pastor in the church and to keep themselves unspotted from the world. Under the covenant of faith, we push through the furtherance of the gospel, the upliftments of Christian life and its testimony.

IV. Now fourthly, we must STAND IN THE GATE OF SOUL WINNING. Our text says, "Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house and proclaim there his word." The local church is the only institution to do the greatest privilege in winning souls. We are not told to sit down and do nothing, and wait for souls to come into our church and be converted. No sir! God said, "Go!" Stand up and go! Knock on doors, visit them in their houses and tell the good news of Jesus. Angels are not made to go and win souls, clubs are not authorized to go, but God created you and saved you and placed you in His church to do the greatest mandate of the King of Kings-Go.

A. Necessity of Soul Winning. When the Samaritan woman had been converted, Jesus said to His disciples, "...Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35). Again Paul said, "Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory" (II Tim. 2:10). Stand in the gate and let us win souls together for the glory of God.

B. Needy Souls. Let's read in Romans 10:14, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" The lost cannot call on the Lord to be saved until they believe that Christ died, was buried and resurrected on the third day according to the Scripture. The lost cannot believe until someone tells him the gospel. The Bible says the lost can never be saved without a witness. They must have a witness to tell them,

they must hear to believe, they must believe to call, and that by calling; Christ comes with salvation.

C. Numbers of Souls. I don't believe in quotas or goals for souls to be saved. God alone can determine that. But, to have numbers of souls be added in the local church is great. It is God alone who gives the increase. Our business is to do His command in a Scriptural way by making a visit from house to house, man to man, and any means of facilities we can use for reaching the lost. Brother, I tell you, souls will be gathered into the sheepfold of the Master.

Stand in the gate of salvation, stand in the gate of separation, stand in the gate of the Scriptural church, stand in the gate of soul compassion, and lastly, **STAND IN THE GATE LIKE A SOLDIER** (militant). I believe in a church militant. Like a soldier, ready to fight, to defend, to sacrifice, ready to go, ready to do or die.

A. Defender of Faith. We are militant Baptists. The church is not only the congregation where the lists of numbers are found, but a militant group with a definite work of God. It is the pillar and ground of the truth. A church must be alert to detect false teaching and false preachers and to reject them. A militant Baptist is one who is fighting the good fight of faith. Only the power of God's sovereign grace will protect us and cause us to overcome and to win the Spiritual warfare. Stand in the gate.

B. Door Keeper. Like a door keeper, a soldier is on guard to discern the errors of doctrines. God needs a Christians soldier who can stand in the gate of the Lord's house to "...hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (for he is faithful that promised:)" (Heb. 10:23).

C. Disciplined. Stand in the gate of the Lord's house. Like a warrior warring a good warfare for Christ and the church. Like a soldier enduring hardness for Christ, "holding forth the word of life," observing Christ's command for the propagation and publishing of the truth. A militant church is a disciplined body bound to a doctrine. It is a body of activity with serious responsibility. Stand in the gate!

CONCLUSION: God needs men to stand in the gate of the Lord's house. He expects you and me to stand in the gate. The most intelligent Christians are those Christians who honor and obey God. It takes a man to stand in the gate of the Lord's house with a backbone under the power of God to stand against the tides of evil, sin and the devil. Every man who really stands should know and feel that he is bound to obey God's will. A soldier's slogan: Obey first before you complain. But God's slogan for a militant church: Obey first and make no complaint. For a Christian there's nothing like obedience to the Lord's command.

HEAVEN

(Continued from Page 1)

and the minister gave a message. During his message, he made a statement like this, "Those brave young men that gave the supreme sacrifice in dying for their country and the

(Continued on Page 8 Column 1)

HEAVEN

(Continued from Page 7)

cause of freedom will be in heaven. Their sacrifice has earned them a place in heaven." That is just not Biblical, you must be washed in order to go to heaven.

I remember another time that I attended a funeral. This was the funeral of an individual that had suffered greatly during his life. The preacher said that the departed person was not in heaven as a result of all the suffering that they had done in their lifetime. I remember another time that I attended a funeral and the preacher said that the departed one would be in heaven because he had been such a faithful church member. While recalling these stories, I thought of the Words of Jesus, listen: "Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch" (Matthew 15:14). The Word of God clearly teaches that you and I must be washed in order to go to heaven. I have said all this by way of introduction. The first point I want you to notice in this message is that:

I. Man Needs To Be Washed

Adam was created in the likeness of God. Adam sinned and as a result became corrupt. He was now unclean. Adam hid himself from God because he was no longer a clean individual. When Adam had children, they were in the likeness of a fallen Adam. You and I are descendants of an unclean Adam.

"Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one" (Job 14:4). "What is man, that he should be clean? and he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?" (Job 15:14). "How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water?" (Job 15:16). The Bible presents a terrible picture of Adam's offspring.

You and I definitely need some cleaning up. We were even conceived with a sinful disposition, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me" (Psalm 51:5). As we grow older, our sinful nature gets more and more developed. We sin because we are sinners by nature. The Bible even says that we are born liars. "The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies" (Psalm 58:3). You can readily see that something must be done in order to fit us for heaven. There must be a cleansing of our sins, bringing us to our second point.

II. A Radical Washing Is Needed.

"...wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow" (Psalm 51:7). The Psalmist uses snow to illustrate just how clean he must be. When snow first falls from heaven it is very clean, it glistens in the sunlight. People have been known to be blinded by the brightness of snow; they call it "snow blindness." Protection must be worn on the eyes in some parts of the country. The Psalmist is saying that he must be washed whiter than snow. Even though snow is clean, white, and glistening; he must be made whiter than that.

Simply rearranging the dirt will not do, a radical cleansing is

needed. The prophet Isaiah spoke of this cleansing, "...though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:18).

They make different kinds of special glass that can change the color of items to the beholder. Should you look at a red item through this special glass, it will appear white. That is exactly the way it is when God looks at us through the blood of His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. We appear as white as snow. There must be a radical cleansing that changes our standing before God.

III. Many are ignorant of their need to be washed. "There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness" (Proverbs 30:12). When an individual thinks that he is all right, God says he is not yet washed from his filthiness. There are some very religious people in this condition. Many religious leaders, moralists and Sunday School teachers will be in hell because they have never been washed from their sins.

A man I knew was terminally ill. His wife's pastor went to see him. The man later confided in a friend that he was amazed because the pastor had referred to him as a sinner. He said, "I have never done anyone any harm and I just do not see what all this talk of sin is about."

No effort of man can do any good so far as sin is concerned. Living a good life will not wash away sin. Teaching a Sunday School class will not touch our sins. Trying to reform and turning over a new leaf will just leave us in our sins. All efforts of man to wash himself is vain. The Bible speaks of all such efforts, listen: "If I wash myself with snow water, and make my hands never so clean; Yet shalt thou plunge me in the ditch, and mine own clothes shall abhor me" (Job 9:30, 31). Many suppose themselves to be all right because of their works and achievements. As the Bible says, they are pure in their own eyes. Nevertheless, they are ignorant of their need to be washed.

IV. Religious Detergents Can Not Wash Us. "For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much soap, yet thine iniquity is marked before me, saith the Lord GOD" (Jeremiah 2:22). We get our word "nitric acid" from this word nitre. The prophet is talking about a detergent made with nitre and soap. No matter how good a detergent this might be, it could not remove the mark of iniquity.

Many today have made a religious detergent for the purpose of washing away their sins. Some have taken the ordinances and mixed them. They have mixed baptism with the Lord's Supper. They have said we are going to be clean as a result of these rites. This is nothing more than a religious detergent and it will not work.

I knew an English lady that was converted from Mormonism. She said that she had gone to London on the instruction of her religious leaders to be baptized for her dead relatives in order that they might go to heaven. Do you know what all that activity was? It was nothing more than religious detergent. It never cleaned anyone. It never washed anyone.

Religious activity done under the name of Christ will not

remove the mark of iniquity. Modern day religionists have many formulas. There are many religious detergents but not one of them works. When men talk of salvation, they are usually talking of home remedies. We need God's remedy. It is God's Heaven and God has said that only those who have been washed are going there. There is only one that we can look to. This brings us to our fifth point.

V. Jesus Alone Can Wash Us. "...Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" (Revelation 1:5). You understand from this verse in the Bible that the only washing that separates us from our sins is in the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus had no sin, but He died on the cross and took sin upon Himself so that He might pay for the definite sins of a definite people. I have not told you that Jesus died for everyone; the Bible does not teach that. It teaches that He died for sinners; that He died for the ungodly. It teaches us that He made a satisfactory and complete atonement for God's Elect. The Bible teaches the forgiveness of sin through His Blood, listen: "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:14).

Even in the future, during the Great Tribulation Period, cleansing will be through the Blood of Christ. Those saved during that period will have been washed in the Blood, listen: "...These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:14).

From the beginning of time until the end of time, no one will be saved without being washed in the blood of Christ. The question of questions is, how might we be washed? This brings us to our sixth point.

VI. How We Come In Contact With The Cleansing Blood of Christ. "...through faith in his blood..." (Romans 3:25). It is a matter of faith. That is the only way that you and I can have any interest in the blood of the lamb. You do not come into contact with the blood by baptism. You do not meet the blood in the water or that teaching is an abomination to God. You do not come into contact with the blood of Christ by confessing your sins. I heard a preacher on the radio exhorting lost sinners to confess their sins in order to be saved. He simply was not telling them the truth of God's Word.

One time, a preacher went into the hospital to visit a dying man. The preacher said, "Now, you understand, you have got to be saved." The man shook his head. Yes, he understood that. The preacher said, "Now I am going to tell you how to be saved." The man listened intently as the preacher said, "If you want to be saved, you must confess your sins to God." The preacher gave the wrong instruction to that dying man. He had quoted I John 1:9 which says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." However, this verse is for the saved individual when he sins, not the lost individual. This verse was written to believers.

The lost individual is never told to confess his sins, but rather to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. If you will study the Bible; you will find that

Jesus, Paul, and all the apostles always told the sinner to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

You do not come into contact with the blood through prayer. I heard a preacher on the radio the other day as I was driving in the car. He asked if anyone listening to him was lost and wanted to be saved, and if so, to repeat after him the sinner's prayer. He then said, "God be merciful to me a sinner." (Luke 18:13). I thought of how different this message was to the one in the Bible that Paul and Silas presented to the Philippian jailor. We have a direct question asked as to salvation and the answer given. Listen: "...Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..." (Acts 16:30,31). They could have told him to confess his sins to God or to pray the sinner's prayer, but they did not. These are not God's channels for salvation. Faith is the channel through which God saves, forgives, washes, and fits for heaven. Listen: "For by grace are ye saved through faith..." (Ephesians 2:8).

All the blessings of salvation are promised to him that believeth, not to him that confesseth or prayeth. We come into contact with the Blood through faith.

If you are a lost individual, you need to be washed in order to go to heaven. You need faith in His blood. You need to trust the crucified One that rose from the dead. Listen: "...that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). May God bless you.

GOSPEL

(Continued from Page 1)

their deep need come to the Lord and say, "Have mercy upon me," and the Lord says, "No, you are not among My elect." Now, my friends, that is not the teaching of this Book, nor anything like that. That is absolutely a false representation of God's truth. I do not believe anything like that, my friends, and I would not insult you by asking you to come here night by night and listen to anything like that.

1. COMPEL THEM TO COME IN

Now, then, here is the truth. God has spread the feast, but the fact is that nobody is hungry, and nobody wants to come to the feast, and everybody makes an excuse to keep away from the feast, and when they are bidden to come they say, "No, we do not want to, or we are not ready yet." Now, God knew that from the beginning, and if God had done nothing more than spread the feast every seat at His table would have been vacant for all eternity! I have no hesitation in saying there is not one man or woman in this church tonight, but who made excuses time after time before you first came to Christ. You are just like the rest. You made excuses, so did I, and if God had done nothing more than just spread the feast every chair would have been vacant, therefore what do you read in that parable in Luke 14? Because the feast was not furnished with guests, God sent forth His "servants". Oh, put your glasses on. It does not say "servants", it says God sent forth His "servant" and told Him to "compel" them to come in that His feast might be furnished with guests. And there is

not a man or a woman in this church tonight or in any other church that would ever sit down at the marriage-supper of the Lamb unless you had been compelled to come in, and compelled by God.

Well, you say, what do you mean by "compelled?" I mean this, that God had to overcome the resistance of your will, God had to overcome the reluctance of your heart, God had to overcome your loving of pleasure more than loving of God, your love of the things of this world more than Christ. I mean that God had to put forth His power and draw you, and if any of you know anything of the Greek or have a Strong's Concordance, look up that Greek verb for "draw" in John 6:44, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him." It means "use violence." It means to drag by force. There is not a Greek scholar on earth that can challenge that statement I mean - and back it up, with proof. It is the same Greek word that is used in John 21 when they drew the net to the land full of fishes. They had to pull with all their might for it was full of fishes. They had to drag it. Yes, my friend, and that is how you were brought to Christ. You may not have been conscious of it, you may not have known inside yourself what was taking place, but every last one of us was a rebel against God, fighting against Christ, resisting His Holy Spirit, and God had to put forth almighty power and overcome that resistance and bring us to our knees, and if any of you object to that strong language, then I am here to tell you, you do not believe in the teaching of this Book on the absolute depravity of man.

Man is lost, and man is dead in trespasses and sins by nature. Listen, it is not simply that man is sick and needs a little medicine: it is not simply that man is ignorant and needs a little teaching: it is not simply that man is weak and needs a little hope: man is dead, dead in trespasses and sins, and only almighty power from heaven can ever resurrect him and bring him from death unto life. That is the gospel I believe in and I do not preach the gospel because I believe the sinner has power in himself to respond to it. Well, you say, then what is the use of preaching the gospel if men are dead? What is the use of preaching it? I will tell you. Listen! Here was a man with a withered hand, paralysed, and Christ says, "Stretch forth thine hand." It was the one thing that he could not do! Christ told him to do a thing that was impossible in himself. Well, then you say why did Christ tell him to stretch forth his hand? Because Divine power went with the very word that commanded him to do it! Divine power enabled him to. The man could not do it of himself. If you think that he could, you are ready for the lunatic asylum, I do not care who you are. Any man or woman here who thinks that that man was able to stretch forth his paralyzed arm by an effort of his own will is ready for the lunatic asylum! How can paralysis move?

Well, I will give you something stronger than that. You need something strong today, you need something more than skim-milk, you need strong

(Continued on Page 9 Column 1)

GOSPEL

(Continued from Page 8)

meat if ever you are going to be built up and grow and become strong in the Lord and the power of His might. Here is a man who is dead and buried and his body had already begun to corrupt so that it stank. There he was in the grave and someone came to that graveside and said, "Lazarus, come forth". And if that someone had been anyone less than God Himself manifest in flesh, he might have stood there til now calling, Come forth. What on earth was the use of telling a dead man to come forth? None at all, unless the One who spoke that word had the power to make that word good.

Now then my friends, I preach the gospel to sinners, not because I believe the sinner has any power at all in himself to respond to it: I do not believe that any sinner has any capacity in himself whatever. But Christ said, "the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life", and by God's grace I go forth preaching this Word because it is a word of power, a word of spirit, a word of life. The power is not in the sinner, it is in the Word when God the Holy Spirit is pleased to use it. And, my friends, I say it in all reverence; if God told me in this Book to go out and preach to the trees, I would go! Yes sir. God once told one of His servants to go and preach to bones and he went. I wonder if you would have gone! Yes, that has a local application as well as a future interpretation prophetically.

2. PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE.

Now the question arises again, why are we to preach the gospel to every creature? - if God has only elected a certain number to be saved? The reason is, because God commands us to do so. Well, but, you say, it does not seem reasonable to me. That has got nothing to do with it; your business is to obey God and not to argue with Him. God commands us to preach the gospel to every creature, and it means what it says - every creature - and it is a solemn thing. Every Christian in this room tonight has yet to answer to Christ why he has not done everything in his power to send that gospel to every creature! Yes, I believe in missions - probably stronger than most of you do, and if I preached to you on missions perhaps I would hit you harder than you have been hit yet. The great majority of God's people who profess to believe in missions, are just playing at them. I make so bold as to say of our evangelical denominations today that we are just playing at missions and that is all. Why my friends, there is almost half of the human race - think of it - in this 20th century - travel so easy and cheap, Bibles printed in almost every language under heaven, and as we sit here tonight there is almost half of the human race that never yet heard of Christ, and we have got to answer to Christ for that yet! You have and I have. Oh, yes, I believe in man's responsibility. I do not believe in man's "freedom" but I do in man's responsibility, and I believe in the Christian's responsibility in a double way, and everyone of us here tonight has yet got to face Christ and look into those eyes as a flame of fire, and He is going to say to us, I entrusted to you My gospel. It was committed as a "trust" to you! See I

Thess. 2:4). It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful.

Oh, my friends, we are playing at things. We have not begun to take religion seriously, any of us. We profess to believe in the coming of Christ, and we profess to believe that the one reason why Christ has not come back yet is because His Church, is Body, is not yet complete. We believe that when His body is complete He will come back. And my friends, His "body" never, never, will be complete until the last of His elect people will be called out, and His elect people are called out under the preaching of the gospel by the power of the Holy Spirit, and if you are really anxious for Christ to come back soon, then you had better be more wide awake to your responsibility in connection with taking or sending the gospel to the heathen!

Christ's Word, and it is Christ's Word to us, is "Go ye to all the world and preach the gospel". He does not say "Send ye." He says "Go ye", and you have to answer to Christ yet because you have not gone! Well, you say, do you mean by that that everyone of us here tonight ought to go out to the mission field? I have not said that. I am not any man's judge. Many of you here tonight have a good reason which will satisfy Christ why you have not gone. He gave you work to do here. He put you in a position here. He has given you responsibilities to discharge here, but every Christian who is free to go, and does not go, has got to answer to Christ for it yet.

"Go ye into all the world." Well then, you say, Where am I to go? Oh, that is very easy. You say, easy? Yes, I mean it: it is very easy. There is nothing easier in the world than to know where you ought to begin missionary work. You have it in the first chapter of Acts and the eighth verse: "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem (that is the city in which they were) and in all Judea (that is the State in which their city was), and in Samaria (that is the adjoining State), and unto the uttermost part of the earth." If you want to begin missionary work, you have to begin it in your hometown, and my friends if you are not interested in the salvation of the Chinese in Sydney, then you are not really interested in the salvation of the Chinese in China, and you are only fooling yourselves if you think you are! Oh, I am calling a spade a spade tonight. If you are anxious about the souls of the Chinese in China, then you will be equally anxious about the souls of the Chinese here in Sydney, and I wonder how many in this building tonight have ever made any serious effort to reach the Chinese in Sydney with the gospel! I wonder? I wonder how many here tonight have been around to the Bible House in Sydney and have said to the manager there, "Do you have any New Testaments in the Chinese language, or do you have any Gospels of John in the Chinese language? How much are they per hundred? or per dozen?" And I wonder how many of you have bought a thousand or a hundred, and then have gone around to the houses in the Chinese quarter and have said, "My friend this is a little gift that will do your soul good if you will read it."

Ah, my friends, we are playing at missions, it is just a farce,

that is all! "Go ye" is the first command. Go where? Those around me first. Go with what? The gospel! Well, you say, "Why should I go?" Because God has commanded you to! Well, you say, "What is the use of doing it if He has just elected certain ones?" Because that gospel is the means that God uses to call out His own elect, that is why! You do not know, and I do not know, and nobody here on earth knows, who are God's elect and who are not. They are scattered over the world, and therefore we are to preach the gospel to every creature, that is may reach the ones that God has marked out among those creatures.

300,000

(Continued from Page 11)

26.) It was a dark and desperate hour when Isaiah came on the scene. The nation was in spiritual, moral, financial, and political shambles because of sin. The nation was on the brink of destruction. Apart from divine intervention there was no hope.

In His mercy God raised up the prophet Isaiah and sent him forth to identify and expose the sins of the people and call them to repentance. The Lord told Isaiah that his message would neither be popular nor received by the majority. Only a remnant would believe and be saved.

The Sins of the Nation

Isaiah begins his unpopular but God-ordained ministry by dealing with the sins of the nation--"Ah, sinful nation." Because Isaiah knew that a nation consisted of individuals, he personalized his message: "A people laden with iniquity, seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters" (1:4). The nation is sinful and corrupt because the people are sinful and corrupt.

The signification of the name Isaiah is "the salvation of Jehovah." This is the heart of Isaiah's message. But before one will look to the Lord for salvation there must first be the awareness of sin and the need of salvation. Every true message of salvation must include "the law-work of the Gospel" (Romans 3:20). "Sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4). Therefore, sin must be dealt with. This was Isaiah's task and it is the task of every true preacher of the Gospel.

Isaiah was faithful to his calling. No sin was left untouched or undisturbed by God's prophet.

Judgment began at the house of God. The "worship" of the people was declared unacceptable to God because their "hands were full of blood" (1:11-15). Why were their hands "full of blood"? Because they had confined their "worship" to the Temple building. They were too pious to get involved in opposing the sin and wickedness that had engulfed the land or to make practical application of Godliness and righteousness in the real world (1:17). They had failed to warn the wicked to turn from their wicked ways and now their hands "are full of blood" (Ezekiel 3:10-21).

The national sins of welfare, government dishonesty and corruption, a corrupt judicial system that dispensed false justice, inflation, a corrupt monetary system, women's "liberation", abortion, and oppression of every description were all dealt with by Isaiah.

Isaiah also faithfully warned about the imminent collapse of the nation and the imminent

danger of an invading enemy that would enslave the land if the people did not repent and live in obedience to God's law (1:20, 5:25-30, etc.).

It was indeed a dark and desperate hour. Time was of the essence. God's prophet must "cry aloud and spare not." He must "lift up his voice like a trumpet and show the people their sins" (58:1).

Where Would Isaiah Preach Today?

As one reads the book of Isaiah it becomes evident that this prophet's ministry would not be welcomed in the majority of churches today. He would be the object of ridicule, criticism, and contempt by the majority of today's modern religionists - including many preachers who profess to be "Bible believers."

Today, Isaiah would be accused of "mixing politics with religion" and of "talking about the government all the time." He would be accused of being too "negative," a "calamity howler," and a "gloom peddler."

Such is always the response of the majority of people to every true preacher of the Gospel who Scripturally defines sin, warns of God's impending judgment, and calls for repentance.

Isaiah's message is not a mere dusty history lesson. His message is relevant for this day and hour. Isaiah indeed speaks this day. Where are those who have the courage of an Isaiah to "lift their voice like a trumpet" and proclaim the truth of God's Word without fear, favor, apology, or compromise?

Dumb Dog Preachers

The majority of "prophets" in Isaiah's day did not share his concern, burden, or alarm. The enemy was at hand. The people faced the imminent danger of slavery and destruction. But the majority of these "prophets" knew not saw not, and cared not. God described these "prophets" as "ignorant and dumb dogs that cannot bark."

"All ye beasts of the field, come to devour, yea, all ye beasts in the forest. His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his own gain, from his quarter. Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and tomorrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant" (Isaiah 46:9-12).

Here we see that the unbelieving mass of people is so careless that the hostile nations, under the figure of beasts of field and forest, are commanded by the Lord to come and devour them.

The picture is of a flock of sheep. The prophets are the watch-dogs whose duty it is to guard the flock and by their barking give notice of approaching danger. But these prophets are likened to dumb dogs which are negligent and lazy. The beasts of the field need have no fear of such watch-dogs that do not even bark. These dumb-watch dogs are wakeful enough when it comes to seeking their own; but when it comes to the flock they cannot even discern the dangers that threaten them.

So fared it with Israel. And, alas, how history repeats itself! Few are the watchmen that are awake today and faithfully warning the people of the dangers confronting them!

Not only are these prophets described as "dumb dogs that cannot bark" - they are also described as selfish "shepherds that cannot understand" who deceive the people by telling them that all is well. "Tomorrow shall be as this day and much more abundant" (56:12). They preached things that were pleasing, a lullaby to conscience, a sedative to fear. Such is accomplished not only by what is preached but also by what is not preached.

Such preaching is always popular, but its end is, likewise, always disastrous. Thus, the "comforting" sermons of these dumb-dog prophets are a direct contradiction to the "disturbing" sermons of Isaiah.

Surely, no preacher would take pleasure in being classified as an "ignorant, dumb dog" preacher. But that is the designation the Lord Himself gives to every preacher who fails to "cry aloud and spare not, lift up his voice like a trumpet and show the people their sins" and call the people and the nation to repentance and obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Today's 300,000 Silent Pulpits

Today, 5,000 innocent, precious unborn babies' lives were snuffed out by abortion. Their arms and legs were torn from their bodies, their skulls crushed. Almost two million times each year our "civilized" society will take an innocent life by abortion. Twenty million babies have been murdered by abortion since January 22, 1973. Those who speak out for the sacredness of life are branded as extremists.

And 300,000 pulpits are silent.

The television network make a mockery of Christians, the Christian faith, and Christian values with nearly every program they air. Greed, materialism, violence, and sexual immorality are standard fare. Program after program, movie after movie contains anti-Christian episodes and plots. news articles condescendingly refer to the "fundamental, right wing Christians." In increasing numbers, preachers and churches are attacked, maligned, misrepresented, and lied about in the media.

And 300,000 pulpits are silent.

Teenage suicide is the highest it has ever been. The number of teenage alcoholics and drug addicts is the highest ever. Christian morality cannot be taught in government schools, but atheistic immorality can be taught.*

And 300,000 pulpits are silent.

Divorce has passed floodstage with over fifty percent of all marriages ending in divorce. The number of children living in broken homes is fast becoming a majority.

And 300,000 pulpits are silent.

Rape has increased 700 percent in the last fifty years, and that takes into consideration the population growth. The FBI reports that one in four 12 year-old girls will be sexually assaulted in her lifetime.

And 300,000 pulpits are silent.

Rock music fills the airwaves and our children's minds with music which legitimizes satanic worship, rape, murder, suicide, forced sex, sado-

(Continued on Page 10 Column 1)

300,000

(Continued from Page 9)

masochism, adultery, fornication, masturbation, etc.

And 300,000 pulpits are silent.

Pornography has become an eight billion (buck) a year business with some of the largest companies in America involved - CBS, RCA, Coca Cola, Time, Inc. Sic hundred thousand children between the ages of 3 and 18 are involved in child pornography. Twenty thousand of them will disappear each year, never to be seen again.

And 300,000 pulpits are silent.

Sodomy (alias homosexuality) is now actively or passively accepted as an "alternative sexual lifestyle" by an ever-increasing number of people. AIDS, declared to be the uncontrollable and rapidly increasing "Plague of the 80s," threatens to infect millions of Americans and result in millions of deaths. Venereal disease has surpassed epidemic proportions.

And 300,000 pulpits are silent.

America is now controlled by the ten planks of Karl Marx's Communist Manifesto.

And 300,000 pulpits are silent.

Americans are deceived, robbed of the fruits of their labor, and enslaved with false balances and credit - paper money (that is the interchangeable paper and copper tokens the masses have been conditioned to call "money" and accept for all of their labor).

And 300,000 pulpits are silent.

Sin and wickedness and rebellion against God and the Gospel are rampant across America. The shadows lengthen. The darkness deepens. The enemy is not coming...the enemy is here.

And 300,000 pulpits are silent.

Our families, churches, educational ministries, and all of our God-given freedoms are under vicious attack by the enemies of the Lord and America. Pastors are being jailed. Churches are being padlocked. Christain parents are being prosecuted and jailed and having their children taken away from them. Churches are being harassed and taxed by the IRS.

And 300,000 pulpits are silent.

What Important Matters Are Being Dealt with in the Churches?

The church bulletin says there will be a meeting to plan the church-wide supper. Money is being raised to put a new floor in the kitchen. (The old one doesn't match the new stove and refrigerator). The sermon subject last Sunday was, "How to Have a Positive Attitude." A softball team is being organized.

At a meeting of church officials a program was announced to recruit new members. The new program was worked out by some of the very top professionals - people who have had success in gaining new members for the Lions Club, the Civitan Club, and other organizations. We really need professionals to do the job.

Sometimes blasphemy comes unnoticed.

Many pastors and churches are too busy promoting their

programs and activities and erecting buildings to be concerned about dealing with the sins and problems of the real world.

Many pastors and churches are convinced that the rapture will take place just any minute. Therefore, they see no need to be concerned with the sins and problems of the real world. They confine their "spirituality" to the four walls of the church building.

Some pastors and churches while agreeing that "things may be bad" and "it's awful that millions of babies are being murdered by abortion," say that there is "nothing that anybody can do about it" because "God's judgment is on the nation." They contend that because "God is sovereign" Christians should not concern themselves with the sins and problems of the real world. They, like the Athenians of old, "spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing" (Acts 17:21). Heads are filled with religious information about God and the Bible, but hearts never burn affectionally with the truth of the living Christ. There is no evangelism, no crying aloud with a voice like a trumpet to show the people their sins, and no call for personal and national repentance. These too confine their "spirituality" to the four walls of the church building.

Silent Pulpits Advance Sin and Wickedness

In no area have Satan and the humanists been more effective in their influence to neutralize the purpose and effectiveness of Christianity than in propagating the lie that for a preacher to speak to all issues of life from the Biblical perspective and to call all men to repentance - including those in civil government - is to "mix politics with religion."

Alas! Nothing advances the cause of humanism, sin, and wickedness more than silent and passive preachers and Christians! Such are America's greatest enemies!

For too long preachers have been silent about the real issues of the real world that affect the real people in their congregations.

For too long preachers have been influenced by and consented to the vain humanistic philosophy that the "secular" world of politics, economics, etc. must be left to the politicians and professional "experts"; the "spiritual" should be relegated to that which takes place within the four walls of the church building on Sunday, and preachers and Christians should not concern themselves with the real world.

Alas! Alas! Preachers are conspicuously silent while America and her people plunge deeper into the darkness of sin and wickedness - unaware of the absolute certainty of the judgment of a holy God upon the nation that forgets God; unaware that God may be pleased to grant repentance and heal the land if the people will repent and live in obedience to God's Word.

Silent pulpits are a curse to America!

God's True Preacher is the Man

For the Hour

To whom can we look to proclaim the truth? Who will sound the warning alarm? Who will cry aloud? Who will instruct? Who will prepare the people for the spiritual warfare?

Be assured that it will not be

the news media, politicians, the courts, educators, or professional prognosticators.

God's true preacher is the man for the hour! He alone can give the certain sound of the trumpet! The truth of the Gospel - that includes a practical application in the real world every day - must be proclaimed from the pulpits!

The Lord's true preachers must be empowered by the Holy Spirit. Their tongues must be loosed to preach God's Word without reservation, fear, favor, compromise, or apology.

Amen

Copied from Temple Times

TO BE

(Continued from Page 1)

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

In verse 3 of our text, Paul is talking about the gospel that he had been entrusted with and the gospel that God had ordained and called him to preach to the lost world. Paul said: "If our gospel, this glorious gospel which we preach be hid, it is hid to them that are lost." Now, Paul is talking about those who are lost. He isn't talking about those who will be saved, but he is talking about those who are in the condition, in the triangle of Satan, in the web of darkness. The gospel of Jesus Christ is hid to them that are lost. They are going to perish and be eternally damned forever. As it states in our text, Paul refers to the world in verse 3, down to the world of the believer in verse 6.

You can see the parallel there that he is dealing with the kingdom of Satan, the lost world that he spoke of in verse 3. But he says "you" - us the believer.

God has commanded the light to shine out of darkness. This is the same commandment that God gave in Genesis, Chapter 1, Verses 23: "And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said let there be light: and there was light." God uses this same power and command for believers to see this light: The glorious gospel of Jesus Christ shined into the hearts of those believers and gave them the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. It brought them out of darkness into the marvelous light. It brought them out of that terrible hideous condition that they were in. It filled and flooded their soul with light, knowledge, warmth and power. Paul is using the parallel between verse 3 and verse 6 of the lost world and the condition that the world was in. God didn't come into the world to save the world He came to save His people. The gospel is hidden. What does that word mean? The verb in Greek means to cover, to conceal or keep secret. The same word is used by Paul as he dealt with hidden truth in I Corinthians, Chapter 2, Verse 7. The same word is used

in the book of Ephesians, Chapter 3, Verse 9 when God's wisdom is concealed or kept secret unless it's revealed by the power of God through the gospel. It is also used as the mystery of the riches of Christ in Colossians, Chapter 1, Verse 26. To hide means that no trace of it can be seen, to the lost world, to the dying world, to the world that is under condemnation and judgment of God. To these people there is nothing suitable in the subject that would delight them. This is the condition that the world is in today. To the lost world there is no desire for Christ and His salvation.

In Colossians, Chapter 3, Verse 3: "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." The word can not see our light, it is hidden with Christ in God. It can't be seen, it's utterly impossible for them to see the gospel, they cannot see Christ. In all His beauty, in all His excellence, their heart does not go out and desire Him. The word "lost" in the Greek is Cemia and Paul used this word as valued. In Phillipians, Chapter 3, Verses 7-8 Paul uses the word value. He says I count all these things but lost for the excellency of the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ that I may win Christ, that I may be found in Him and everything I have gained physically or materially. I count the value of it all as dung upon the hillside. There hasn't been any provisions made for them, they weren't designed of God's love, they weren't chosen of God. Christ has not died for them on the cross of Calvary. There was not a provision made for them, that is what Paul said. Only through the gospel is the design and scope of eternal salvation revealed to a sinner. But Paul said, if the gospel be hid to those that are lost and there are no provisions made, the only way we know the provisions were made is through the gospel of Jesus Christ. But if that gospel be hidden then, they are eternally lost, they are in a terrible state. I don't know how anybody could say Christ died for everybody. Paul did say here He died for the believer. He is using the parallel in verse 3 and verse 6. These are the only ones that He died for.

If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost. What is Paul talking about in verse 6? Paul is talking about a personal and secret revelation of God in the soul. For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness has shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. A sinner needs a personal secret and driving revelation from God and he will not be saved any other way.

Some people might give you all kind of gimmicks and different things. Some may have you come forward and repeat a prayer after them, or say "kneel down here and open your heart and let Jesus in." I'm saying you must be saved according to what the Word of God says, you will not be saved any other way. Don't let people deceive you, don't go away from here having this hid to you and being lost. We need to know the truth about what the word of God says and not to take man's word for it. We shouldn't worship man and put our confidence and our faith in man, but we need to place our confidence and faith in the infallible Word of God. God's Word says it takes a driving revelation of God in the soul to be saved. A man is in

darkness because his soul is full of darkness, his back is toward God. He is dead in trespasses of sin. He needs the power of God to set him free.

Paul said in Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 16: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth." If you think a sinner is not a strong fortress you have a rude awakening. They are one of the strongest fortress's there is. They are like walled city, that is very prepared for battle. You try to take an individual out of a body of sin, he will defeat you every time.

It takes the power of God to move him. You can't do anything for them when it comes to eternal salvation. If the gospel be hid it is hid to them that are lost. If the gospel be hid to them and no provisions have been made for them, I could preach for 100 years and they will never move one muscle. It will not have any effect whatsoever upon them. They will come and they will listen but they will hear a bunch of words and they will go out the door just as lost as when they came in. Why? Because the gospel is hid to them, it hasn't been revealed to them. They need a personal secret revelation. A man, woman, boy, or girl that is lost and doesn't know the Lord Jesus Christ in the pardon and forgiveness of sin needs that miracle, just as much as the power and the miracle that God used in Genesis. Darkness enveloped the earth because God cursed the earth.

I believe this is when satan was raised up. You see, Satan's kingdom was on the earth and he had power over the earth. He was the lieutenant of the earth and he failed God. God brought judgment upon the earth. Sin had to be introduced into the world before Eve could be deceived. Sin could not be introduced by a perfect creature as Lucifer was before his fall.

You are saved instantly when God by the power of the Holy Spirit takes the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ and applies it to your heart, and that rebellious will of yours. A transforming power takes place inside in the individual person. A lot of people say you have to do good to be saved, you have to quit doing this or that before you can be saved. God will save you just like you are and right where you are. That is the only way He is going to save you. God will save you at His ordained hour by His supernatural power. This was communicated to the world in Genesis, Chapter 1, Verse 3 in the same ordained hour by the same super power of His sovereign grace. He deals with each individual sinner the same way.

What kind of decision have you made? Have you made a decision outside of the Word of God? Have you made a decision based upon what man thinks or what man says? Have you made a decision based upon seeing a movie, hearing some sob stories or some scary tales? Were you saved by shaking the preachers hand and repeating a prayer after him? Then you are not saved. You haven't experienced the new birth. You haven't been brought out of darkness into the marvelous light of God. A change hasn't taken place in your heart. You will know it when it happens. Satan will try to discourage you and give you a hard time about it. This is truly

(Continued on Page 11 Column 1)

TO BE

(Continued from Page 10)

a mystery. I can not explain this glorious mystery. Only God knows. This is a mystery that God has bestowed upon His favorite subjects. Those that He chose in the halls of eternity and those that His loving Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ died for. Those souls contribute nothing to it, the sinner doesn't contribute anything. But if our gospel be hid it is hid to them that are lost. Why? The God of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not. It is Satan's job to blind the eyes and deceive them. If Satan can get someone to make a false profession, he has them. He says "I've got you locked up tight when you made a false profession." He is going to deceive you and take you right into the very pits of hell. He has got a little truth. He gets you to make a decision, gets you all worked up. Many people say "I know I am saved because I feel good." I know I'm saved because I tithe. I know I'm saved because I go to church." What kind of proof is that? How do you know you are saved? Because God's Word says so. You are not saved any other way. Some people cry when God saves them and some people laugh. When some people are saved they don't have any kind of expression whatsoever on their face. But they were saved.

The lost world does not desire eternal salvation, it can't be otherwise, by nature all are spiritually dead. They have no spiritual sight, no spiritual actions, no spiritual life. Until the spirit of life is imparted to the soul there will not be any life. When a person is dead and laying in a casket the only way that person can ever get up is for God to place life back into that body. That is the way people are, they are dead. They let a man tell them, "you are not too bad a woman, not too bad a girl or boy or not too bad a man." There is none good, no not one. There are none who seek after God. There's nothing good about you, even the believers righteousness is as filthy rags.

There is no spiritual hatred of sin. John 3:18 plainly tells you. It doesn't tell you that they sit in darkness, it said they love darkness. A man sitting in darkness loves sin. There has to be a spiritual awakening and a change take place in his life. There must be a hatred of sin. There has to be a longing for holiness and the saving faith of Christ. A sinner will not do this until they pass from death unto life as stated in Romans, Chapter 8, Verse 1-2: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus." These are the ones who pass from death unto life. God graciously gives and imparts His divine nature. He says unto the people, "I am found of them that seek me not." We don't seek God but God seeks us. God is not lose, we are. Jesus came into the world and said, "I came to seek and save that which was lost." The word "that" is a personal pronoun and an identifying word.

Jesus came to seek and save "that" which was lost. The word "that" means the sheep. If He said He came to save the world He would have put the word world in there. He came to save "that" sheep that is astray and lost in sin.

Matthew, Chapter 16, Verses

13-17. Jesus asked. "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? They said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." What did Christ tell him? He said, "Flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." No man receiveth anything from God unless it be given to him from heaven. In John, Chapter 3, Verse 27: "John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven." If a man receives anything he receives it from God.

We love God because He first loved us. Do you think we could love God if He didn't love us? There is no way in the world. Why do we call upon Him? Romans, Chapter 10, Verse 13: "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." I'll agree with that, if you put verse 14 with it also. Why did we call upon Him in our time of distress and when we felt the burden of sin and wanted to be out from under the yoke of the burden of sin? Because His spiritual call preceded ours, that's why. He called us first. He loved us first. His effectual call preceded our call. the spiritual light must first light the spiritually dead soul. You are not going to be saved any other way. God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness has shined it in our hearts. The light of knowledge. Paul said when Christ spoke to him he saw a great light and he fell to the earth.

He heard God's voice say. "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" Paul said. "Who art thou Lord and what wilt thou have me to do?" Paul had seen the divine light. He had experienced a great divine revelation in his soul, he was far from wanting to be saved. Do you think he was seeking God? No, Paul was seeking out Christians to put them in prison. He wasn't seeking God but God turned him around. God sought out Paul on the road to Damascus and Paul saw the divine light.

I believe what Paul saw in that great light was an outward manifestation of it. This is the same power, same light, and the same manifestation that works in the heart of the individual person. You don't experience it outside like Paul did but you experience it inside. Paul had already experienced it inside. If you will read Galatians, Chapter 1 carefully, you will see that. God had already begun His divine work in Paul's life and that was a manifestation of the great divine revelation that God gave to Paul. But this is a special thing, the conversion of Paul. A special thing which shows us how His divine power works. This divine revelation in the heart of Paul was an outward manifestation of it. We receive the outward manifestation of the power in our soul. For God, who hath commanded the light to shine out of the darkness hath shined it in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God. The inward and immediate revelation of God unto the soul is made manifest by its accomplishments. Obtained with it is warmth and power produces a great and wonderful change

within.

In closing let's read Galatians, Chapter 6, Verses 14-15: "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. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature."

REACTIONISM

by Ray Hiatt

The history of religion is a history of reactionism. "Reactionism" is defined as men building structures and creeds in reaction against existing structures and dogma. All religions were born as a reaction to something their adherents perceived as evil. Islam, Buddhism, Pentecostalism and Mormonism are reactions. The Protestant Reformation was a reaction to the papacy and attendant evils. Puritanism was a reaction against plump monks who feasted and reveled.

You can trace reactionism in the life of every religion. Man's religions are really just philosophies whereby they attempt to reason their way to God. The Pharisees, sadducees and Herodians of our Lord's day were sects of reactionism. They were an admixture of politico/religious themes. They had ceased looking for Messiah and looked instead to the inner walls of their own party constructions. The advent of Messiah surprised them for they knew nothing but the codified enumeration of things to do and to shun.

Every political party, even the Communist, has a tinge of religion. Political parties are founded on "belief" of specified values and adherence to certain codes. Political parties are all moral in tone if not overtly religious in content. The Communists amuse me, for they preach a faith system as surely as any Puritan ever did. They disavow God, but the Bolshevik revolution was as much a religious reaction as anything history shows us.

Every society is rife with reactionism. Many who advocate abortion truly believe that they are struggling for human rights. Their eyes refuse to see the homicides they abet each day. Just now there is a rather large reaction against fundamental, evangelistic, conservative Christianity. I won't attempt to define "fundamental, evangelistic, conservative Christianity," but I trust you know what I mean. There is currently a liberal reaction against white males in this land which has reached such a crescendo that white males are as disesteemed and dispossessed of many privileges as any group in history.

All political and social upheavals are more or less a reaction. They are reactions against domination. I value our form of government and benefit from it greatly for I am free to preach the gospel freely. But, I am not blinded by platitudes. The American Revolution was not a sacred cause nor a holy crusade. It was a political reaction. The colonists said, "We will not have King George to rule over us." Men have said the same of Jesus Christ. American government and freedom are blessings from God, but they are also political reactions. All political squabbles are reactions

against some existing structure. Democracy was, and is, a reaction to monarchy. May God add His blessings to our democracy. Communism (may God staunch its flow) is a reaction to democracy. Thus men vacillate, shift and change in reaction to that which is.

With the above as a base let me speak of the Baptists. With the single exception of the churches which Jesus built, and is building, all Baptist constructions are politico/religious reactions to some established form or order. The churches of Christ are personal constructions of Jesus and not reactions in any form. Yet, Baptists do react and their reactions usually presage trouble and strife.

I recall a minor split in a Baptist mission board when a powerful preacher demanded that the board return a sizable check his church had donated to the board. His action was simple and pure reactionism. The board declined to pet and pamper him as he desired. He went out in a fuming huff and formed his own group. "Organization men" are organization men at the bottom and if rebuffed by one organization they construct their own. Dominant men will dominate or decamp. Most Baptist "reactions" and splits are little more than dominant men trying to rule and when denied they form private armies of mercenaries to serve them. We have seen this once and again.

There have been doctrinal "reactions" among Sovereign Grace Baptists. Most are pure folly. We have seen men attracted to what seemed to be a beautiful sentiment. They gained some followers, for there are always some who will follow anyone if a fight is in prospect.

We have seen some rather good men attracted to a deviant sentiment. When their kinsmen failed to properly applaud they existed and formed their own group which says "amen" with pleasing regularity. Baptist reactions have increased in recent years. Men become intrigued by a doctrine and depart from men they have worked in tandem with for years. They depart saying, "We will not company with you heretical unbelievers." Yet, most Baptist reactionism is nothing but hurt feelings and injured pride.

Where did the Hardshells, the convention folk, the priesthood group, the Christless regeneration clan spring from? From typical Baptist reactionism. These parties now have their own groups of devoted "ites". I recently said to a brother that Baptists are the stupidest people on earth, as well as the most spiritually blessed. I also told him that if the popes had left the Baptists of antiquity alone that the Baptists would probably have destroyed each other in great measure. Medieval persecution was a disguised blessing for it united and strengthened the Baptists while it slew them.

Corinthian conduct is archtypical of the Baptist penchant for reactionary splits. They were man conscious not God conscious. They denied the veracity of the very man God used to begin the church. Paul wasn't troubled personally but he lamented it spiritually.

I have been personally fortunate. I have never been a member of any Baptist cabal and not being a member I have never felt it necessary to react and withdraw from any. I once had a recruiter interview me for

a job with the CIA. I declined the offered position. I have likewise declined Baptist recruiters who have attempted to enlist me in their reactionary group. I have been offered a seat on the board of directors of Baptist reactionary cliques and have lovingly walked away. Reactionism is always of man's making. Baptist reactionism casts invectives behind to despoil their kinsmen. Love does not lambaste. Love is gentle but Baptist reactionaries are frequently vicious to brethren that they but lately companied with.

I hope I am wise enough to know that Baptist reactionism shall continue and grow in force until Christ returns. What is a "falling away," but a reaction to that which was once held true?

I don't know if we are living in the latter days because prophecy is not my special field. Yet, Baptist actions make it seem so. I say "seem" for I do not firmly declare on many matters of prophecy, for I know little about them. I am not a predictor of end time events, but the reactionary propensity of the Baptists of this hour does alert us to certain possibilities. There have been two general barometers through time which have shown certain signs of the times. The lives and actions of two detested peoples, the Baptists and the Jews, have shown us something of God's timing. When we see the Jews dispersed or gathered in Palestine it tells us something of God's timing. When we see Baptists strong and united or dividing and feuding, it tells us something of God's timing.

Baptists are a studious people, but also a brutal people when they acquire a dogma which their kinsmen fail to laud. They react with brutishness against their own house and against Baptist kinsmen with whom they have been previously yoked in godly labor. I say to us all... reflect before you react.

I never object to any reactionism which is bathed in love. The pivotal doctrine of the reaction may be in error, but love assuages many wrongs. When love is manifest and pressed in every point, no reaction can do an overweening harm. Let charity be gone and no good can come. My alarm to all Baptists is "reflect before you react... reflect before you divide yourselves from your kinsmen." Preach your sentiments with overshadowing love and you shall find favor with God and man. Yet, reflect well, reflect well... before you react.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Elder Jim Mills is available to preach wherever the Lord might open the door. As far as we know this Brother believes and preaches the same truths that we print in this paper. Brother Mills is a member of the New Testament Baptist Church in Bristol, Tenn. This church is pastored by a very dear friend to this paper and many writers of it, Dan Phillips. Brother Phillips recommends Brother Mills to any who may be interested. He can be contacted at this address: 103 W. Locust St. Johnson City, Tenn. 37601.

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

APPRECIATED LETTERS

Dear Pastor Wilson, Sorry I haven't written for some time, but I enjoy The Baptist Examiner. I'm sending a love offering that I hope will help in some way to get the gospel to needy people. May God bless you richly as you endeavor to carry on His work.

Mrs. W.H. Catron,
Salem, Va.

Dear Bro. Wilson, Greetings in our Lord, and I pray that He is blessing you in His work, and also your family. He has wonderfully blessed me. I am still able to be up and around. I am so thankful for the blessings. He has given me. I do pray for you and each writer of the paper each day. Each sermon just blesses my heart and soul. I am enjoying studying Ezekiel with Bro. Willis. I thank my heavenly Father for the men who stand for and preach the truth.

Mrs. O.L. Young,
Bullard, Texas

Dear Bro. Wilson, I hope you and yours the best. My peace and joy in the Lord far out-weighs my many toils and snares. This should surely close my mouth to murmuring. Many articles you have written in T.B.E. have been a great blessing to me. Thank you, and thank the Lord Jesus Christ.

E.D. Strickland,
Birmingham, Al.

Dear Pastor Wilson, I wish to thank you for putting my name on your list. I read T.B.E. with much interest. We are outcast in this area, with our belief in election and predestination. So it is nice to share the paper. We are still having our Bible study with

our small Catholic group and they are over-whelmed by the truth. Thank God, He chose me, and drew me, and took me from the Catholic Church of Rome. Sincerely, Mrs. Barbara Foxworth, Port Anthon, Tx.

Dear Bro. Wilson, Praise the Lord! I enjoy The Baptist Examiner. Before the Lord so graciously saved my soul, my good friend would allow me to read the paper. As I, by the power of the Holy Spirit, was diligently seeking the truth, your paper so enhanced my understanding and faith. As a gift, my sister in Christ subscribed for me. T.B.E. God bless her. I continually look forward to reading every sermon written, especially the Forums I and II, which help in the study of questions which sometimes are asked but never answered.

Kim Jackson
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Bro. Joe, I talked to some of the people that are getting the paper. They like it very much. I pray to God that they will learn the truth. I love The Baptist Examiner. I am glad that we have men like you who stand up for the truth of God's Word. May God bless all of you that are helping to get the paper out. Pray for me that I will do what God wants me to do. I am sending two more names for the paper. May God bless your labour.

Thomas H. Sanders
Paragould, Ark.

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA

Sheba's queen was amazed at the sumptuousness of Solomon's table. She lost all heart when she saw the provision of a single day; and she marvelled equally at the company of servants who were feasted at the royal board. But what is this to the hospitalities of the God of grace? Ten thousand thousand of His people are daily fed; hungry and thirsty, they bring large appetites with them to the banquet, but not one of them returns unsatisfied; there is enough for each, enough for all, enough for evermore. Though the host that feed at Jehovah's table is countless as the stars of heaven, yet each one has his portion of meat. Think how much grace one saint requires, so much that nothing but the Infinite could supply him for one day; and yet the Lord spreads His table, not for one, but many saints, not for one day, but for many years; not for many years only, but for generation after generation. Observe the full feasting spoken of in the text, the guests at mercy's banquet are satisfied, nay more, "abundantly satisfied"; and that not with ordinary fare, but with fatness, the peculiar fatness of God's own house: and such feasting is guaranteed by a faithful promise to all those children of men who put their trust under the shadow of

Jehovah's wings. I once thought if I might but get the broken meat at God's back door of grace, I should be satisfied; like the woman who said, "The dogs eat of the crumbs that fall from the master's table;" but no child of God is ever served with scraps and leavings; like Mephibosheth, they all eat from the King's own table. In matters of grace, we all have Benjamin's mess; we all have ten times more than we could have expected, and though our necessities are great, yet are we often amazed at the marvellous plenty of grace which God gives us experimentally to enjoy.

—C.H. Spurgeon

SPECIAL URGENT NOTICE

Postage for The Baptist Examiner has gone up over 50% this year. This means that the subscription price we charge will no longer cover all of the cost of the paper. We definitely do not desire to raise the subscription price. Maybe those churches and individuals who support this great mission work could consider increasing their offerings to this work. Such would be greatly appreciated. God bless you. The editor.

A Slippery Road

There must have been heavy rain during the night, then the skies cleared, and the water which could not run off the road very soon froze solid in long thick sheets of ice. So the next morning when I came along in my car, just a few days ago, the road was very dangerous; and when I came back in the evening I felt it was even more dangerous as it was now dark.

I had just turned a corner and saw a long icy stretch of road in front of me. I thought that this road was just like my life stretching out before me.

Why did I think that?

Because if I had walked on that icy road I would very likely have slipped and fallen. And how easy it is for us to fall into sin! Especially if we think we will get on well in life by our own efforts. But could I not walk perfectly safely even on that slippery road if someone greater than I am had been supporting me from beside the road, always ready to steady me if I slipped? Believers have Someone who does just that as they walk through life. In fact, the Bible speaks of believers leaning on their Beloved One, Jesus Christ. It is the only safe way to live our lives.

MARRIED TO THE KING

People look at her,
And they just shake their head,
She's not having any fun,
And might as well be dead.

She's always out of money,
And just sits on holidays,
All she does is go to church,
Or stays at home and prays.

She never watches T.V.,
At our jokes she turns away,
She doesn't even read the paper,
Like we do every day.

I see her read the Bible,
Or hear her praise God's name,
I wonder what she gets,
From it just the same.

One day I heard her say,
You will be surprised,
To know that I am happy,

And here's the reason why.

I have a loving Saviour,
Who's coming back for me,
And make me His very own,
Throughout eternity.

I'll need no money there,
I'll walk the streets of gold,
For He owns everything,
In His Word I'm told.

No time to watch T.V.,
For time will be no more,
No holidays to celebrate,
On that golden shore.

I'll not be sad or lonely,
As His praises I will sing,
In my new home, forever more,
Married to the King.

Marilyn Osborne

THERE'S NO ONE TO BLAME BUT ME

You said you would come quickly, Lord,
And as a thief in the night;
Just when we least expect You,
Come hither, You will shout.

I wonder if we will be ready,
Or do we hold this world so dear,
That we'll not want to leave it,
Should You suddenly appear?

And will our treasures be up above,
Where thieves and rust cannot break through,
Or will they be here upon this earth?
If so, our hearts will be here, too.

I know that we must stand before you,
At that great Judgment Seat of Christ,
To account for deeds that we have done
And the way we have lived our life.

I know that our works will be tried by fire,
To find out what sort they be;
And if mine burn like wood, hay and stubble,
There's no one to blame but me.

Oh, the time that I have wasted,
Oh, the things I should have done and did not do,
Oh, the times that I have been unfaithful
To Your Holy Word and to You!

And though the tears should run down my cheeks,
Those wasted days I could not change;
But I can resolve to be more faithful,
In the time that does yet remain.

"THANKS TO MY SPECIAL FRIEND"

This friend of mine has been much more than a friend to me, he has been a companion also. He not only take my hand, but comforts me with his kind and thoughtful ways. We have had a very close relationship for a few years now. He not only is a friend but a guide. Do you know who this friend is? He is my pastor. May God bless you.

A reader from Mansfield,
Ohio.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I am often asked about a place that binds books and Bibles. I can highly recommend the work mentioned in this announcement.

B. & C. Bindery, Rt. 4, Box 66, Bluff City, Tenn. 37618. Book binding and foil stamping. Don't throw your hymnals away. We rebind hymnals, stamp, and trim in gold. \$3.50 in lots of 50 or more. \$4.00 for less than 50.

We rebind Bibles and all types of books. Our price depends upon the condition of the books. All work is guaranteed. For estimate or further information, call 615-538-7817.

ALCOHOLISM

The extent to which alcoholism now disrupts American life was summarized by Joseph Reccardi, a counselor on alcoholism, which appeared in the letter columns of *The New York Times*, December 13. He wrote: "...There are no warning labels on liquor bottles, yet by some responsible estimates 20 million Americans suffer from alcoholism. Here are some 1985 figures from the New York State Division of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse:

"Alcoholism is one of America's four leading disease, cancer, and respiratory illness. "One-third of all general admissions to hospitals are related to misuse of alcohol.

"Moderate to heavy drinking of alcoholic beverages during pregnancy has been linked to a range of birth defects, including mental retardation. Fetal alcohol syndrome has been reported in 1 to 2 out of every 1,000 births.

"To alcohol use and abuse has been attributed more than: "50 percent of all fatal automobile crashes and 50 percent of all homicides.

"40 to 65 percent of crimes committed by individuals sentenced to state prisons and county jails.

"40 percent of all problems brought into family courts; 50 percent of rape cases, and 70 percent of sexually aggressive acts against children.

"25 percent of all suicides - the rate of suicide among alcoholics is as much as 30 times that of the general population.

"68 percent of deaths by drowning and 85 percent of deaths by fires....

"I would not fault the A.M.A. on pressing for measures to educate the public on the dangers of tobacco use. I question what I perceive as an inconsistency in not pressing publicly for mandated warnings for the alcoholic-beverage industry.

"Has the time come for this question to be addressed, or will we shut our eyes to it?"

"I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth" (Psalm 34:1).